

University odds swing to women

The idea that women have less chance of being accepted to train as doctors is wrong, according to the Universities Central Council in its annual report for last year. Its annual report for last year published yesterday says women have a slight advantage over men when applications which have no chance of acceptance are discarded. The same is true in languages, engineering and technology.

The UCCA bases its claim on a study it calls the candidates whose applications subsequently prove to be unsuitable. 80 to 92 per cent of whom eventually get the university course they want. A larger proportion of women candidates with adequate qualifications were accepted. "The general conclusion to be drawn from this is that the prospects of admission among applicants who are able and willing to take a university place are now slightly better for women than for men," the report says.

The number of British women applying to university has increased over the past 10 years from 29.7 to 36.4 per cent of all entries. Last year the total number of applicants for university places rose again after being down for several years. Applications from home students were 3 per cent above what might have been expected because of the bigger age group.

Next year, for the first time, the UCCA is introducing a fee of £2 for applicants next year that would have been £1284,610. UCCA 14th Annual Report 1975-76, obtainable from PO Box 28, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1JY, 65p.

More overseas students are applying to British universities despite fee increases of between 50 and 100 per cent. Figures released by the Universities Central Council on Admissions show that 12 per cent of the 38,900 applications received up to December 15 were from overseas, compared with 11 per cent of the previous year's December total of 126,587.

Overall applications this year are 9.7 per cent higher than last year. Mrs Shirley Williams, Education Secretary, announced that fees for postgraduate students from overseas would go up from £416 a year to £830, starting in October. Undergraduates from overseas will be paying £650 instead of the current £416.

UCCA estimates that the final number of candidates may be 154,000 compared with the 142,000 who applied through it last year. More women have applied this year—35.4 per cent of the total compared with 34.5 per cent last year.

Testing, transfer, teachers

A national system of tests in the basic skills and minimum qualifications in mathematics for would-be teachers were among proposals put to the Education Secretary this week by the Council of Local Education Authorities.

The council told Mrs Shirley Williams, while commenting on her annual report, that the series of national conferences on education due to start later this month, that while it welcomed the idea of a core curriculum, it did not want "a single, rigidly imposed" one. A core developed school by school with local authorities was suggested. Responsibility for ensuring that employers and parents were consulted and that there was some coordination between schools and colleges should be retained.

CLEA says it has been concerned about standards in schools. "CLEA would welcome the development of a range of tests of performance which could be made available for local use." It shared Mrs Williams's concern for developing in-service training of teachers, but in the present financial situation even some of what already existed might have to be cut.

"CLEA hopes that, as most teachers of younger pupils have a responsibility for mathematics, the entrance requirements for initial teacher training will be modified to include a minimum of basic computing in mathematics for all teachers." The council rejected the idea that schools were merely a preparation for working life. "Schools have a wider responsibility to pupils as

individuals and to society as a whole." It wanted employers to do much more by encouraging day release and specifying much more clearly what skills they want their recruits to have.

There should be a comprehensive policy for 16 to 19-year-olds instead of allowing brighter youngsters to stay on at school for A levels while the less bright transfer to vocational courses at colleges of further education, say the Association for Liberal Education in their contribution to the education debate.

"The country, we believe, will greatly benefit from a tertiary system in which all full-time and part-time students can learn alongside each other. Such an arrangement would be a better preparation for working life than the present system of a two-tier system of education." At the moment this sector of education is in complete chaos. The association cites the overlap between secondary and further education, the proliferation of examinations, the overlap between the De-

partment of Education and Science and the Training Services Agency, and the confusion of different methods of financing students. They want a single Government department to be responsible for education and training.

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Improvements in school standards depend on a supply of high quality teachers rather than a core curriculum or national tests, say the National Association of Teachers Further and Higher Education this week in their comments to Mrs Williams on the uninitiated agenda for the national education debate.

To this end they want a four-year training for teachers and more inclusion and in-service training. "We believe this would bring long-term benefits to the standards in schools," says the 67,000-strong association, warning that the great debate will be a waste of time if there is no money to carry through objectives agreed upon. "Debate is no substitute for resources."

NATFHE deny that there is evidence of declining standards in schools, and say there is little to be gained by discussing alternative forms of testing and assessment at the regional conferences. They should be left to the profession. Preparation of young people for work, they say, is the responsibility of further education, training bodies and employers. Schools should merely provide a good general education.

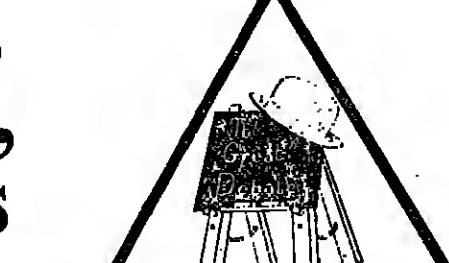
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In a moving appeal to Britain's young to assert itself, Mr Sean Macbride, the United Nations Assistant Secretary General, said that humanity would destroy itself in the next few years unless the arms race was stopped.

Mr Macbride said that the world was not "powerless", he told the delegates. "It is the growing influence of public opinion which is leading to changing attitudes towards civil rights in the communist countries." Mr Edward Heath echoed Mr Macbride's insistence that youth had more power than ever before, largely as a result of the development of communications.

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On the platform: Dr Fred Milson, Sir Frederick Dainton, Professor Walter James, Miss Margaret Maden, Mr Percival Burgess and Professor Bernard Crick.

Adult approach is best for 16-19s

Pupils over 16 need to be treated as young men and women, Mrs Shirley Williams, the Education Secretary, told the Youth Charter conference on Tuesday.

In her second public reference this week to tertiary colleges, she said: "It is my own guess that they are the direction in which we are going to go."

Resisting suggestions that the leaving age should be dropped for pupils who were hauled by school and wanted to get out into the adult world, Mrs Williams said that the school years would have to be shaped so as to provide them with the things they wanted.

Mr Williams protested at the way politicians were blamed for the alleged non-involvement of young people in society and talked of "a dreary vocational training". She wanted schools to teach how industry works and to understand things like the Bullcock committee on industrial democracy.

It was not a question of choosing between this and social education. "Put too many of us have regarded it as demeaning to be concerned with industry and know nothing about it. That attitude is at the root of a profoundly divided society."

There was considerable conflict over these issues: the last thing many parents wanted was for schools to concern themselves with social education and the involvement of their pupils with society. They had never seen a people had believed, a golden age of consensus as to what schools should be doing. "A decade ago we oversold the idea of education as though it could do everything and now we have got to live with over-expectations."

Young people in the 16 to 19 age group are getting little real help despite the multiplicity of services that exist to help them. Mr Tyrrell Burgess, of North East London Polytechnic, told the youth charter conference on Tuesday. "There is no hope in the existing set up and we must start fresh," he said. "Education for 16 to 19 year olds is nothing if it does not help to solve social and economic problems. At the moment, individuals suffer from ignorance, incompetence, and dependence all fostered by the services provided and so drilled into young people that they are fit for nothing at the age of 18."

Top brass turn attention on youth

Leading politicians and statesmen led the discussions at the Youth Charter Conference in London this week. It was the most spectacular conference the youth movement has ever held.

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90 per cent 'want regular three-R tests'

Overwhelming majorities against comprehensive and in favour of regular testing of reading, writing and arithmetic in all schools were recorded in an opinion poll carried out by Conservatives in North Islington. The results of this survey are necessarily representative of the views of the North Islington electorate as a whole," their report says.

"But when all the appropriate qualifications and reservations have been made, certain broad conclusions stand out." Ninety per cent wanted regular testing of the three Rs. "Less than a fifth thought that comprehensive provided properly for the above or below average." Three-quarters were concerned about political indoctrination by teachers.

The "appropriate qualifications" included that only 12 per cent (264) of the sample of 2,200 replied to the questionnaire. More than two-thirds (68 per cent) of the electors questioned believed that standards in primary schools were falling. More than half (56 per cent) thought schools did not adequately equip children for jobs.

A school to save energy Work is to start soon in the first year of a generation of primary schools in Kent which have been specially designed to conserve energy. Godinton Junior School, Ashford, will derive "high environmental comfort" from a new scheme for the education of 16 to 19 year olds should start with the individuals. "Systems are very difficult to change," he said. "That is why I am against them."

Insulation in the outside walls and roof will be taken as far as possible. Although there will be fewer windows, the design of the single-storey building will permit maximum use of daylight. A new type of rooflight will prevent glare and heat loss. It can be used to take solar collecting panels if experiments in other parts of the county are successful.

'Let's talk standards' The Council of Local Education Authorities has asked Mrs Williams, the Education Secretary, to discuss educational standards when it meets next Thursday. CLEA will also be discussing in-service education, school meals and the building programme, and will ask Mrs Williams to develop some of the views she expressed at the recent North of England conference.

service training, or of the difficult which nursery class hours posed for West Indian working mothers. Mr Dudley Fiske, chief education officer for Manchester and a member of the governing body of the Centre for Information and Advice on Educational Disadvantage, warned that the centre should not be made a scapegoat. If it failed it would fall because everyone, and others, had failed.

It had been set up to discover good practice in multi-racial education and it had to be helped in the task. It was necessary to start acting and thinking about black education in unorthodox ways, he said. Mr Eric Bolton, HMI responsible for multi-racial education, agreed. There had been very little change in what schools actually did and there was a tendency to go in for one-off experiments, like black studies. This was the "wrong approach." It was important not to link disadvantage automatically with colour. Schools must begin to look at black children in a more positive light.

Councils keen to keep control of purse strings

The Association of County Councils reacted strongly this week to recent hints that there should be specific grants from the Government to help pay for parts of the education service. The suggestions were made at recent conferences by Mrs Shirley Williams, Education Secretary, and Mr James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the DES. The most obvious first candidates for specific grants would be the independent programme and in-service training, which have suffered considerably from cuts in spending.

Mr Carlston Hetherington, secretary of the ACC, said at a press conference on Monday that his association was still firmly opposed to the idea. "Our education officers say quite firmly that it is not the way to spend money at the moment."

The introduction of an induction programme using specific grants would be a clear indication of a quite wrong policy," he said. "These things must be desirable in more affluent times. But we are saying that we want to continue to have the money in a block grant because the authorities know what their priorities are."

at least is unlikely to be set too high. What knowledge is held to be essential? It is commonly assumed that English and Welsh education often fails to develop an understanding of the principles of physical science (whatever they may be), thought necessary for later technical training. Beyond that, the rest is not all that clear. It is not even clear whether scientific teaching should be theoretical or practical in orientation—designed to develop knowledge of what happens and how to make it happen, or why it happens.

In any event children need more knowledge of the world about them than they can gain from study of physical science alone. Presumably a core curriculum will include some form of environmental studies. What is their content? How will they differ from traditional geography? Do they include political geography? How does our membership of the EEC change the composition of a "core" or even this narrow area of study?

Little Ilford teachers to sue union for damages

A writ was served on Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, this week by Mr Graham Lane, a teacher from Little Ilford School, Newham, who has been suspended from union membership for refusing to sign a form.

Mr Lane is seeking immediate reinstatement as a member and a declaration that the union's disciplinary procedure is contrary to natural justice. Thirty other teachers from the school who have also been suspended, are about to instruct lawyers to seek injunctions and damages from the union. Legal moves were set in motion this week after appeals against the suspensions were rejected by the union executive.

The teachers were notified that their suspensions were confirmed unless they agreed to abide by the rules of the union and accepted the existing machinery for taking industrial action. Mr Lane was told he would be reinstated if he telephoned or wrote saying he would abide by the rules. He said this week that he

had already written to Mr Jarvis accepting the rules, but that he did not seem to have been seen enough. The internal disciplinary action against the Little Ilford teachers was set in motion after they refused to sign forms saying they would not take part in unofficial strike action. The forms were issued last October when the teachers stopped work for an hour in support of a colleague who refused to stand in for a teacher absent on maternity leave.

Mr Lane had taken no part in the stoppage but would not sign the form. He has told the union that he will not break any rules and would abide by them. Trade union membership is important for his position as the Labour Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for South-West Staffordshire.

School closure 'a humbug'

Mrs Shirley Williams, the Education Secretary, was criticised this week for endorsing a decision by the Inner London Education Authority to close the 185-year-old St Mary-lebone Grammar School. The parents' association condemned her as "a humbug".

The IEA decided last year to withdraw financial support for the 550-pupil school. The last intake of pupils will be this summer, and the school will close in 1981.

Teachers and parents accused the school of being a small, exclusive, but the IEA also helped the IRA and made the current situation in Northern Ireland a great deal worse than the one he had faced as Prime Minister. He told the delegates: "Travel and talk with people. Work to change public opinion through your organizations."

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But there were more serious criticisms of the adults from the teenagers who did attend—a

recognition of past failure and a determination to improve things for black schoolchildren emerged at a meeting of the Community Relations Commission and I.C.E.A.s last week.

The CRC had invited local education authorities in multi-racial areas to discuss the question of special funding for multi-racial schools and areas, and were welcomed by Mr Gerry Fowler, Labour MP for The Wrekin, to make their case with passion but to make it watertight.

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Tories plan 'cells' to lift all-ins

The Conservative Party is to publish a study of comprehensive schools and how to improve them as part of a 10-point campaign to raise educational standards.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Opposition spokesman on education, said last week that the new campaign, Standards 77, would be the third stage in a programme begun by the Conservatives in 1974.

"Our aim is to get our own ideas across and at the same time to consult our supporters and hear the views of teachers and all those concerned with education." It would be entirely separate from the great debate begun by Mrs Shirley Williams.

In May four lectures on the purpose of education will be held at Westminster. A series of regional conferences for teachers, parents, and others will be held at Manchester, Newcastle, Southampton and Canterbury. The conferences would lead to the setting up of "cells" of people concerned with raising standards.

A special education and industry conference is planned, as well as a non-party conference in June on religious education in state schools.

In December, 1974, Mr St John-Stevens set up a working party of 100 groups, under the chairmanship of Tory MPs but bringing in outsiders in the education world. Last year they produced reports on standards and discipline, parental rights, education vouchers, post-school education, pre-school education, and youth.

They are now turning their attention to the 16-19 age-group, special education, vocational education, teacher training, and the funding of education.

As a final part of the campaign a discussion paper of the arts will be published.

Mr Andrew Rowe, Conservative director of community affairs, who will be in charge of the project, said that the Young Conservatives and the Federation of Conservative Students had promised to cooperate.

"We hope to start all over the country groups of people actually talking about the education of their children."



Norman Jackson, coke oven operator, Brian Vessey, casting operator, and Geoff Turner, training officer, all from the British Steel Corporation, look at the work of pupils from Foxhills Comprehensive, Scunthorpe, part of a pilot scheme to bring education and industry closer together.

Women hardest hit in jobs scramble

A survey revealing nearly 10,000 newly-qualified teachers still unemployed confirms the teacher unions' claim of 20,000 jobless teachers, the author of the survey said this week.

Mr Ed Peirson, principal of Worcester college of higher education, who has conducted an annual survey into fortunes of newly-qualified teachers for several years, found that the worst affected were women holders of the three-year certificate. A third of those in the 1975 survey, covering 71 per cent of last summer's output, were still looking for jobs after last term had started.

Both Mr Peirson and Mr Francis Cummings, vice-president of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, agreed that schools were showing a clear preference for graduates, even for primary posts. Compared with the figure for certificated women, 24.5 per cent of women with the postgraduate certificate were unemployed and 19.1 per cent of women holders of a BEd.

Among men teachers, only 14.4 per cent of BEd graduates were still looking for work, compared with 20.5 post-graduate certificated and 26.2 per cent with the three-year certificate.

Commenting on a recent survey by the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers which found no more than 6.1 per cent new graduate teachers unemployed, Mr Peirson pointed out these figures only applied to the output of university departments of education

whereas his was concerned with those who had qualified in non-university departments. Even so, he found the UCET results low.

Noting the NUT estimate of 6,000-8,000 teachers still unemployed from the previous year, he said: "The 1975 survey found that 1,870 who had gone into teaching were still unemployed only 15.3 per cent. Nearly half had found work in industry, mostly in related work. Many, though they lacked the categories of air hostess (12), hotel management and professional footballer."

"It is clear," Mr Peirson said, "that the majority of those who have taken the certificate as a temporary measure will be securing a teaching appointment."

He was surprised at the percentage of unemployed (41.4) and women (53.4) who restricted their applications to particular areas. "I am an older, married, 1934 graduate," he remarked. "Then you accept that if you were entering a profession you would be hanging around until a job came to you."

For the immediate future, Peirson saw little improvement until the 1980s, he said.

Latest DES figures show that maths teachers are still not being recruited fast enough. Bob Doe reports

Maths: staffing crisis worsens

The shortage of mathematics teachers in secondary schools has increased by about 26 per cent since 1969. Over the same period, however, graduates in other subjects in schools have increased much more. In science, for instance, there has been a 45 per cent increase.

What has happened with maths is that while the number graduating each year has increased, the proportion of those going into teaching has declined from almost a third in 1969 to about a fifth in 1974. Within this figure, the number going into teaching other than in maintained secondary schools (into further education for instance) has gone up.

A maths degree, it seems, is a highly marketable commodity. The University Grants Commission says that last year only 20 per cent of maths graduates went into teaching while 42 per cent went into industry and commerce. Of those who went into teaching in 1974 little more than a half actually found their way into maintained primary and secondary schools.

According to the Royal Society's committee, jobs like accountancy, banking, finance, insurance, and market research dominate the mathematician's job market and attract them away from teaching.

Part of the trouble here is that

the numbers now recruited just to achieve a standard. Actually, maths teachers would mean hiring something like all the extra teachers needed in the early seventies at the rate of about 6 per cent a year in the early seventies. In 1975 the number of graduate mathematicians in the profession was approaching 7,000 but this was 1,582 fewer than needed. These estimates, based on a 10 per cent sample of schools in the DES are anyway thought to moderate the extent of the shortage because they rely on headteachers' views. It is expected that many ex-non-graduates or even non-mathematicians are called upon to do the job of graduate mathematicians.

Moreover, a recently published report from the Royal Society's Special Committee for Mathematics says: "The 1975 survey considerably underestimates the number of additional mathematics teachers needed for ideal staffing."

As the DES's regular Statistics in Education published last week show, the number of maths graduates in

Shortfall of mathematics teachers in maintained secondary schools	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Shortfall of graduate and non-graduate maths teachers	1,205	512	897	1,117	717
Shortfall of graduate maths teachers	1,281	1,419	1,582		

many mathematics graduates do not stay in teaching long. There is evidence that only about half the mathematics graduates who go into schools are still there six years later.

According to the Royal Society report, the reasons given by young mathematics teachers for leaving the profession are pupil apathy and poor working conditions. Mathematics teachers are more interested in their subject than other teachers and find it hard to adjust when confronted with pupils who dislike mathematics.

The result of the shortage is that many posts that it is claimed should be filled by graduate mathematicians are filled by non-graduates. This explains the apparent discrepancy in the DES survey figures (see table) which show that the shortage of graduates and non-graduates taken together is less than the shortage of graduates alone.

The latest survey by TIM inspectors found that only 46 per cent of mathematics teachers in secondary schools were specialists. A third had no qualification in it; that is, they were not graduates of mathematics, science or engineering.

The Royal Society committee wants more effort made to keep mathematics graduates in the profession and to upgrade the qualifications of others who teach the subject. It wants more support for young mathematics teachers through the implementation of the induction year proposals and a vigorous programme of in-service training.

Those with poor qualifications for teaching mathematics should improve them or get out "to forms of teaching for which they feel greater affinity" or to early retirement, the Royal Society report adds.

Commenting on a recent survey by the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers which found no more than 6.1 per cent new graduate teachers unemployed, Mr Peirson pointed out these figures only applied to the output of university departments of education

Society of Education Officers conference DES chief puts his weight behind sixth-form colleges

Education authorities were urged by the Department of Education and Science last week to set up more sixth-form and tertiary colleges for the 16 to 19-year-olds.

Mr James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the department, praised the 70 sixth-form colleges now in England and Wales, and told the Society of Education Officers conference in London: "It seems to me we could go a good deal more in moving towards the sixth-form college or the tertiary college."

They had eliminated many of the difficulties arising from the multiplicity of courses and small teaching groups. Cooperation between them and neighbouring colleges could provide further education could provide more economics. An extension of this cooperation had led to the concept of a tertiary college and there were now 11 of these in operation.

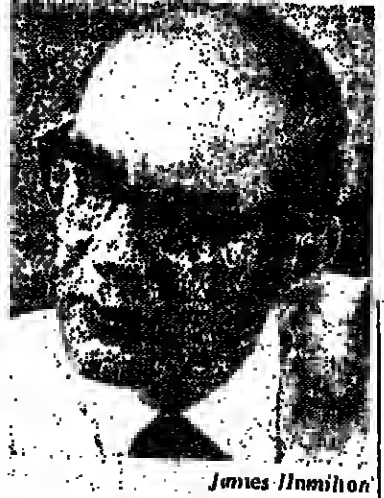
After a "sovereign lecture" by Lord Alexander, secretary of the Association of Education Committees on shortcomings in the education of 16 to 19-year-olds, he had come to realize that in many ways their problems epitomized the general difficulties of further education and encompass, in addition, many of the planning problems arising in the final years of schools education."

He was struck by how thinly dispersed sixth forms were, and how small they were.

Just over 50 per cent of all secondary schools had 100 or fewer students in their sixth forms; the average was about 80. The average size of an A-level class was 71. Given the birthrate trends the size of teaching groups is likely to decrease and the proportion of un-economic groups will be correspondingly greater.

He could see no clearly defined path for the "lost half" of the 16 to 19-year-olds—the young people who had gone directly into employment which offered few opportunities for further education and training, or worse still, those who had become unemployed immediately they left school.

"With resources so limited, it would be foolish to suggest that any spectacular advances can be made. But we—the department, the local authorities and the Training Services Agency—must try to give another shove on this particular project."



James Hamilton

'Disaster' of exported system

The English education system transplanted into Third World countries has often been nothing short of "an expander-disaster", the society was told on Friday.

Mr Jack Thornton, chief education adviser in the Ministry of Overseas Development, told the conference: "The Western influence of this kind of education is far too academic for the people in these countries."

Western traditional forms were being firmly entrenched in these countries but they simply did not fit. "An education system for an industrialized society is imposed willy nilly on a tropical country society concerned with agriculture."

Two often Western education terms had proved to be totally unworkable for poorer countries where many as 80 per cent of the school population were self-employed, but unable working with a hoe on the land.

Mr Thornton said it was "a shame" that primary education in the Third World was devoted to sending pupils on to secondary education when only a handful were able to go on. He criticized the curriculum and structure of secondary schools for being geared towards university entrance which was simply unobtainable for most who got a secondary education. "The system is irrelevant."

Wild cat action the only way, say militants

A pamphlet urging teachers to take unofficial strike action has been published by Rank and File, the militant group of National Union of Teachers members.

Unofficial strikes are the only way to force the union to take official action, the pamphlet says about "best handle working with a hoe on the land."

The author, Chanie Rosenberg, says the NUT has waged five major campaigns in the past 10 years to force the union to take compulsory action, over an interim pay award in 1970, the London allowable wage, a fight against the cuts in curriculum and structure of secondary schools for being geared towards university entrance which was simply unobtainable for most who got a secondary education. "The system is irrelevant."

The success of the earlier campaigns was due to unofficial industrial action, she claims. While broad unrest among grassroots membership prompted the union to take official disputes in order to contain the unofficial movement.

For both a change in the law and class size to 30 (25 in reception classes) and the reality of smaller classes, massive action by the NUT is imperative. To get official action on your union, unofficial action is necessary.

The union's attitude on strikes is that they must all be approved by the executive. A memorandum on this site and teacher employment published this week for the NUT's annual conference at Exeter, charts the progress of officially sanctioned strikes over the past year.

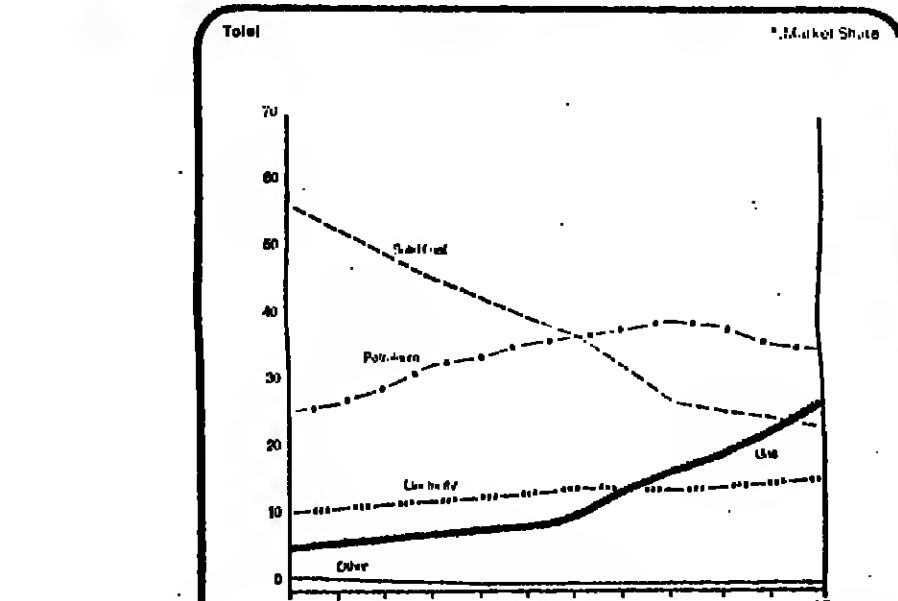
Only 350 jobs are said to have been saved by teachers adopting the power policy, and the memorandum says this success suggests that a wider spread of action and unofficial actions on class sizes could create many more jobs.

"It is the wish of the action committee and the executive that in all cases where it is justified, action should be undertaken."

The memorandum calls on teachers to appeal to the action committee for permission to strike where there are problems over class sizes, difficulty in obtaining proper physical conditions.

The Exeter conference will be asked to approve the memorandum.

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James Fawcett's classic comedy

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(for 11 years upwards)

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Labour Party conference on local government

Teachers' champion takes on all-comers

The rights and responsibilities of teachers was the subject of a major clash between a teachers' union official, who is also a Labour councillor, and politicians attending Labour's local government conference at Harringate last weekend.

Mr Alan Evans, senior education official of the National Union of Teachers, told Mr Christopher Price, MP, a former junior education minister, that he was wrong in saying teachers were accountable to no one.

When Mr Nicholas Tallentire, a Scunthorpe teacher, complained that teachers were too conservative with a small c and a big C—Mr Evans said they were right to be conservative with a small 'c'.

Mr Evans also warned Mrs Shirley Williams, Education Secretary, who was in the audience, that teachers would pull out of the Schools Council unless there was proper discussion about its future role.

He reminded Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the Inner London Education Authority, that authorities wanting to get rid of a teacher had power under no fewer than three sections of the 1944 Act.

There seemed to be a general feeling that standards in schools had fallen, he said. But last year 82 per cent of 16-year-olds took a public examination.

Mr Evans criticized the mandating in the Department of Education. "The majority are from the south of England and were educated at a small number of fee-paying schools", he said.

And he remarked of the inspectors: "We don't fear, in the teaching profession, 400 or so HMIs who have no involvement nor roots in the schools."

Miss Joan Lester told the working group that while she was a junior minister, one of her responsibilities was teachers' misconduct.

He challenged the popular assumptions, particularly among industrialists, that standards in schools had dropped.

She had suggested to local authorities that economics could be made in the school meals service.

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Unions step up 'no cover' ban

The two big teacher unions are stepping up sanctions against local authorities with poor pupil-teacher ratios and over-size classes.

The National Union of Teachers said this week that members in 40 primary and secondary schools in Bolton would refuse to stand in for absent colleagues and would ban teaching in classes of more than 35 pupils.

Pupil-teacher row

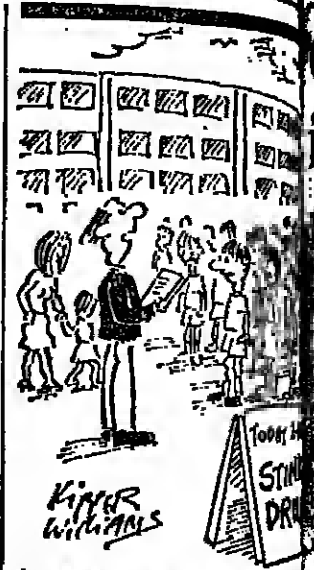
The National Union of Teachers is protesting at the invitation issued in the National Union of School Students to take part in the 'Great Debate on Education'.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Themes for Education 'Alternatives for Humanity' 18-22 April 1977 The second in an annual series of conferences concerned with the transformation of educational thought and practice.

People Mr J. Kirkpatrick is to be president of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (Northern Ireland Federation).

Reports by Bert Lodge



A mysterious but small, which for more than a year has baffled the police, closed a Norfolk primary school down last week for two days.

References 'a waste of time'

An agreement between the Parents' Teachers' Association and the Federation of British Industry supplying references for job leavers is being ignored, says the Assistant Masters Association.

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Colleges are off key in training for music in primaries

Robln Maconie

Independent concert agency for emerging musicians and greater emphasis in college training on practical realities of professional musical life were demanded at the national meeting called by the National Committee of Enquiry into the Training of Musicians in Weymouth Hall, London, on the weekend.

Areas in which advice was sought from the committee included identification of talent at primary level, the shortage of orchestral string classes down last week for two days.

According to Mr Desmond Miles from Norwich, it was not until the school was closed that the school was closed for two days.

Finely, the school was closed for two days. The school was closed for two days.

As wrong about drink as they were about drugs

Teachers should look at drinking from the child's point of view, covering the short-term effects rather than addiction, and they should plan material for lessons in line with sound educational principles.

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Managers not keen on selection tests

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In brief Why so few women in the top jobs?

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Bank goes out to play

A multi-racial playground project in Leamington is to receive £3,000 from Citibank NA, which has an office in the borough.

Old girls join the boys

Two student nurses made history in Huddersfield when they became the first female committee members of the Old Almondhills Association.

History on film

A film is being made about the history of Michael Faraday junior and infant school in Westmoreland Road, Waltham, London.

Common market degrees

A master's degree course in sociological theory is being planned by University College, Cardiff, with universities in Munich, Germany and Tilburg, Holland.

Adviser to gifted

Essex education committee is considering the appointment of an advisory teacher to help exceptionally gifted children in the schools.



Everything Teachers should know about Teachers'

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- (b) some current developments in the management structure and in the organization of the secondary school.

The course will be held in Kappelions Hall In-Service Centre, Queen's Road, Aberdeen. The course is open to any registered teacher. The fee, which covers full board and residence for the duration of the course, is £86. Membership will be limited to 24.

Application forms and further information may be obtained from the Director, Scottish Centre for Studies in School Administration, Moray House College of Education, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ.

Bombs, bullets and now... comprehensive reorganization

Peter Robert Henry Mund, the fourth Baron Melchett, is the man in charge of education in Northern Ireland. At 28, it has been a short but spectacular political career.

He succeeded in his title four years ago, quickly became a government whip in the House of Lords, then spokesman on environment. He hit the headlines as chairman of a working party on pop festivals; on a weightier matter, he has been the Government's hard-pressed spokesman in the Lords for the controversial (and still unapproved) Bill to nationalize the shipping and aircraft industries.

The job he got last September—as Minister of

State responsible for education, health and welfare in Northern Ireland—is his first big and a taxing one too. As well as the difficulties caused by Ulster's security problems, he has to decide whether the province's schools should go comprehensive.

It is a particularly fraught issue. Existing selection procedures are unpopular; organization is complicated because Northern Ireland's 260 secondary schools are voluntary, including three quarters of the province's 811 grammar schools. A Department of Education consultative document issued last summer has come under increasing fire from

Lord Melchett talks about the task of running education in Northern Ireland

Interview by Frances Stadlen

Comprehensives

It is government policy in England and Wales to re-organize the comprehensive system of education. What is Northern Ireland's special case?

A. England has about 20 years to work towards reorganization. In Northern Ireland you start from a quite different base. The movement away from the 11-plus came much later, and there are other important differences, such as the absence of independent fee-paying schools.

The Government's policy in Northern Ireland during the period of direct rule is to govern positively and firmly, and not to avoid facing up to difficult issues. It is also to give a great deal of consideration to the special circumstances of Northern Ireland and the views of its people.

There are those who say that during direct rule we should not make these sorts of decisions or stir things up. But this is not the case with comprehensive reorganization. Secondary reorganization is not by any means a new issue which the present Government has in some way introduced into Northern Ireland. It has been under consideration by educationalists here for many years, especially since the Burgess Report was published in 1973. Decisions cannot be deferred indefinitely.

If consultations result in a majority against comprehensive reorganization, will you reorganize? A. A majority of whom? We will obviously have to weigh up the different opinions and, I suppose, look at them in qualitative as well as quantitative terms.

Is there a danger that some specialist teachers will be too thin on the ground and that teachers of academic subjects will be reluctant to teach in 11-16 schools?

This would not necessarily be so. There is a lot of cooperation already between different schools and between schools and technical colleges, perhaps because of the scale on which we work in Northern Ireland. How seriously do you take the threat of some of the voluntary schools that they will go independent?

I have not been threatened by them. We are engaged in a sensible and constructive dialogue. How far would you be prepared to let the voluntary principle be eroded?

I don't think I could really comment on that while the consultations are going on. There is considerable disagreement over the best method of transfer from primary to secondary school in a comprehensive system. How do you propose to resolve this?

At the moment I have an open mind on transfer. I think it would be fair to say that public discussions have not yet proceeded very far on this particular issue.

Integration

Do you share your two predecessors' enthusiasm for non-sectarian schools?

There is a suggestion that a conference should be held on this subject. I am continuing the series of preliminary discussions about this which my predecessor started, so I am still in the process of listening to the views of local people. Some time ago the Government did feel that there was not enough public pressure to warrant proposing any major change.

The terms in which some people see the issue are anyway a little artificial. I don't believe you could force parents to send their children to shared schools, and you certainly can't have half the school population not turning up in school, so there is an element of absurdity in saying simply "Why don't you integrate?" And, of course, integrating education would not make any difference in some areas unless housing was also integrated.

I have a feeling that people tend to latch on to integrated education as the solution to Northern Ireland's troubles because it seems simple. It is a simple, it is also difficult, incidentally, to find anyone who has actually got many concrete proposals as to what the Government itself should do about integration.

Do you think it would be fruitful to experiment with integration in sixth-form colleges?

A lot of people in Northern Ireland seem—on educational grounds—to favour a comprehensive system based on sixth-form colleges and, in many ways, these might sensibly be segregated.

Are you considering the 10-year plan Mr Basil Mulroy, your predecessor announced in 1974 for universal nursery education and in particular integrated nursery schools?

I am currently considering our plans for the provision of nursery schools and pre-school play groups but I haven't got the money Basil Mulroy had. I'm afraid that financial circumstances have changed since his 10-year plan for universal nursery education was announced. Fortunately being in charge of health as well as education gives me an overall picture of pre-school care and education. What we must aim to do this time is to give priority to the areas of greatest social need. For this, resources will have to be diverted from elsewhere.

What is your response to the Peace Movement's proposal to open segregated schools and its success in setting up school groups?

I have not had a chance to study the initiative in detail yet. The Government has welcomed the change of atmosphere which it thinks the Peace Movement has helped to create, but I have not yet looked at the education proposals.

Do you think that changes in the curriculum could make a contribution towards helping the divisions between the two communities?

Cultural differences cannot be ignored, and, in any case, it is not the practice in the United Kingdom for government to dictate the individual school. But I think you will find that there has been quite a lot of work done in recent years on curriculum development aimed at

helping pupils to understand the views and feelings of their fellow citizens.

Discipline

What is your response to the claim that parents are not being prosecuted for failing to send their children to school, that the cost of vandalism is running into hundreds of thousands of pounds, and that some teachers are being driven out of their schools by the blurring of their responsibilities in handling shortcomings of the Troubles?

I have discussed truancy and discipline problems with teachers and magistrates, and I am sure that they are doing all they can to do their job. I am sure that the discipline and truancy problems are not more serious here than they were several years ago.

I am sure that it would be useful to suggest that Northern Ireland's truancy problems on a scale that is not elsewhere or that are difficult in Northern Ireland are only, or even mainly, because of the Troubles.

Of course, the security problems in some areas of Northern Ireland are bound to have some effect on truancy and their behaviour in school. A disturbed child coming to school half asleep, but I have been impressed by the work done by the schools in the difficult areas.

I've seen that work at first hand, and I have no hesitation in contributing to the dedication of the schools, including all those who are concerned with making sure that the children of Northern Ireland are not directly affected by the troubles, and as always, as far as possible, to be bound to be in some respects, it is worth noting that in some of the most difficult areas shifts of population meant a drop in employment in local schools. In these cases, the Department has, where possible, deliberately maintained the teacher role.

This means that in some of the most difficult areas there are very generously staffed schools, doing excellent work. About 850 new teachers were recruited last year, some of whom were employed in the new schools. This area continues to be one of my priorities wherever teaching posts are available.

The Government is in the process of doing some research on the extent of persistent non-attendance at Northern Ireland's schools, and that this work will give us a more accurate idea of the persistent truancy than we have at the moment, and thereby should be taking to deal with the problem.

In the meantime, some



running education in Northern Ireland
Frances Stadlen

research has shown that 25 per cent of the training school population are there for non-attendance at school. (Training schools are the rough equivalent of Britain's old approved schools.) Many would say that this sort of punishment is only appropriate for far worse serious offences than non-attendance, and we are urgently looking for other approaches.

We are building a day assessment centre for 14 to 17-year-olds who have been up to court, and I hope that the results of the assessments carried out there will enable the courts to find other means of dealing with truants. Indeed, one of the assessment centre will have to suggest and promote alternatives to custodial sentences. So there are changes in the wind, and serious thought is being given to how improvements can be made, but what really lacks at the moment are some accurate facts and figures on which to base further action.

Does the threat of sectarian or other forms of reprisal make it difficult for schools to exercise discipline and authority?

There are very great difficulties in Northern Ireland, but my general reaction is that schools are being hit rather than injured by their incapacity to cope with problems. The dedication of the teachers in Northern Ireland is beyond belief. I think it is probably considerably higher than in England about the same time, which is the appalling violence has effected everyday life.

There has been suggested that there should be some confusion of role between teachers, social workers and education welfare officers. Do you agree?

This is an area where both theory and practice are evolving quite rapidly. I have certainly had one or two interesting ideas put to me, and I am considering them at the moment. Of course, the agencies you have mentioned each have their traditional roles, which they continue to fulfil, and which are on the whole, well understood. At the same time, I'm sure that new approaches should be developing in response to our better understanding of need.

Maybe there is bound to be some confusion at a time when innovations are being discussed, but no one has suggested to me that there is any major difficulty because of this. (The Department's) report has been helpful in giving definition to some aspects of this work.

I hope the fact that I have responsibility for both the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland will help to increase the already considerable co-operation between the two departments in areas of mutual concern like this.

You have been asked to pay particular attention to youth. How do you foresee the development of the Youth Service?

I wouldn't wish to comment in detail until the Youth Committee's report on the service has been fully discussed, though I will be making a speech in a seminar next month at which some of the issues will be discussed.

What I would say is that, because my predecessor gave the youth service quite a high priority, the service is in good shape financially and is developing. It is quite clear that the youth service has an important contribution to make particularly in areas where recreational entertainment has had to close down. The decision to give more priority to the youth service, both voluntary and statutory, was, in my view, absolutely right in the circumstances. How can you help the young unemployed and those about to leave school for work?

Ideally I would like to ensure that everyone has something constructive which they can get on at. This problem is, of course, receiving a great deal of consideration in Northern Ireland and indeed in the rest of the United Kingdom and internationally.

Northern Ireland has a unique provision in the United Kingdom in that pupils may transfer to technical colleges at the age of 15, and this has given rise to very good co-operation between schools and technical colleges in some areas. This is something on which I believe we may be able to build, especially in looking at the role which technical colleges could play for the 16-plus age group.

On a different tack, the Department has just established two pilot centres for unemployed young people, bringing together concepts of coping skills, recreation and education. We shall be looking carefully at the results during the first experimental year.

Teaching jobs

You recently announced a retraining scheme for unemployed teachers. How is it going?

We had almost 350 inquiries after our advertisements which have resulted in about 260 firm applications for further training or temporary employment. We have offered some 200 places in special training courses which will start at the beginning of February. The courses will last until the summer and are designed for teachers who are already qualified but wish to develop their skills further. We are paying particular attention to teachers who are short of work in areas where we are short of a good response for a course concentrating on the teaching of basic reading and writing. It was always my intention that we should have also had a number of teachers to obtain the maximum long-term benefit from this initiative.

We also expect to create some 50 full-time temporary teaching posts and I very much hope they will be used by the schools concerned to create additional flexibility which will allow further development of areas to which I attach particular importance—for example, home school links and counselling.

With over 700 unemployed teachers, are you considering specifically matching them to vacancies, as advocated by Northern Ireland's Area Boards?

That is the figure of teachers registering as unemployed last September. I would say that the response to our recent initiative, the 260 or 350 replies I have just mentioned, is a more accurate indication of the number of teachers currently seeking employment. Indeed one of the objectives of the initiative was to assess the size of the problem. We will certainly be cooperating with boards in the allocation of the 50 to 60 temporary posts involved in the initiative and they will be given the names of the teachers available in their geographical area.

I am sure it is important to keep closely in touch with schools and colleges at any given time and from June, when teachers start coming out of college again, we intend to keep a closer eye on individuals so that we know who the unemployed teachers are, where they are and what subjects they can offer. But there is no doubt that we will have more of a problem next year.

Will the abolition of Northern Ireland's three teacher training colleges be threatened if their output is reduced to 900 as the Department proposes?

We have a committee sitting at present to do supply and training of teachers and no final decisions will be taken until late next September and beyond until the recommendations have been considered. Whatever happens some very hard thinking is going to be needed. But the first step must be to decide the immediate question of levels of intake.

Finally...

It is sometimes said that, because the Minister has more than one portfolio, because he continues to spend only part of his time in Northern Ireland, because of the constitutional uncertainty and because of the frequent ministerial reshuffles, the Department in Northern Ireland has acquired excessive powers. Do you agree?

No, although until the area boards had been set up, it might have appeared that a lot was going on from the centre. The boards have been working effectively for some time now and they are a great deal of course responsible for a great deal of the educational provision of the educational field, and indeed from the public's, the fact that Northern Ireland departments are small makes them easier to understand and makes it easier to establish a close working relationship with a large Whitehall department. I believe that this advantage of scale is something which can be of considerable benefit in Northern Ireland.

It is certainly a very good development, but as much as I enjoy being its minister, I naturally hope it won't be too long before I am able to hand over a minister in a devolved administration.

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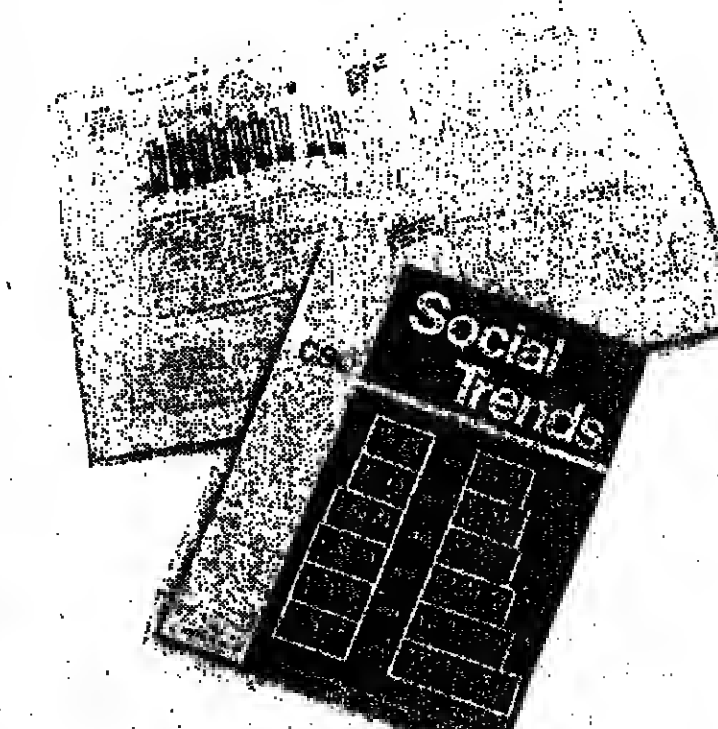
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Cyclo-cross titles go to the hardy

by Stanley Levenson

Every determination helped schools cyclists through the snow and icy winds during the national cyclo-cross championships at Haverhill, Suffolk. And there was mud, too, by the time scores of feet and bikes had covered the course, a disused railway track.

Because conditions slowed the competitors down so much the organizers reduced the length of the races. It was taking the boys and girls more than 6 min to complete a lap instead of the 4 min plus worked out when the weather was better.

As expected, Kevin Carr (Sherburn School, Leeds), the national schoolboy open champion, won the senior, over-15 event. The team prize went to Earlham Comprehensive School, Norwich.

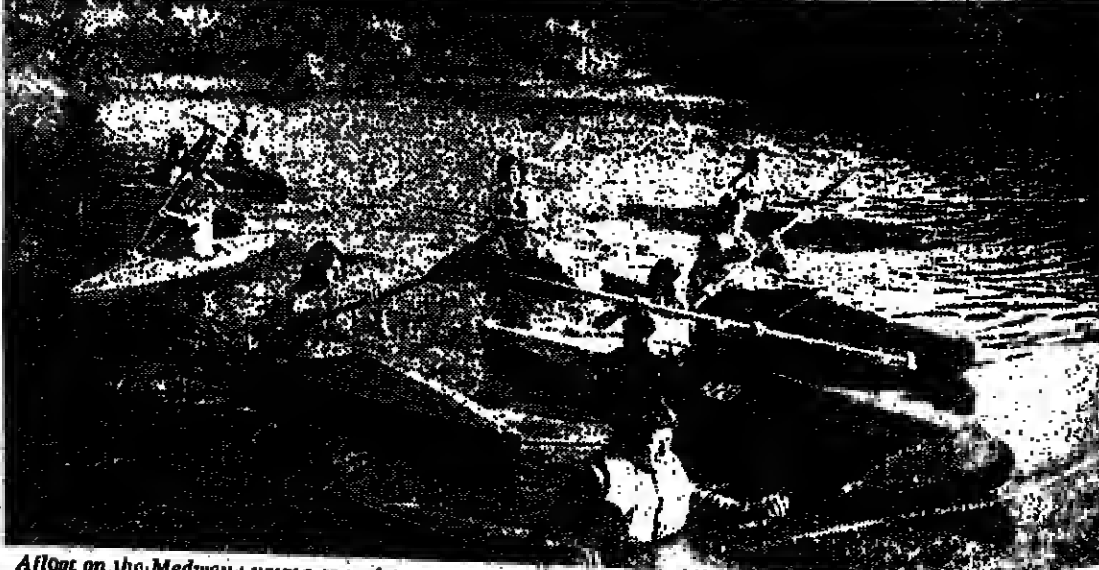
Paul Watson (John P. Kennedy School, Hemel Hempstead, Herts) was first home in the under-15 race, in which the team winners were Wreake Valley College, Syston, Leicestershire.

The two girls' championships were inaugurated into one race, with separate prizes for the two age groups. Wendy Page, the outstanding girl rider from Hunsay High School, Suffolk, beat her old rival Shirley Robinson (St Charles Lucas School, Colchester) for the under-15 title, and Sally Bennett (Lay Hill School, Sutton Coldfield) won the under-13s.

The championships were promoted by Haverhill Whizzlers and sponsored by Little International, the schools furniture people.

Fast bowler
 Another Thomson will be coming over to England this summer with a hostile attitude towards batsmen. Not Jeff Thomson, who caused havoc here in 1975, but Geoff, a Perth schoolboy, who is in the Australian under-19 team which is to make a 12-month tour in June and July. Thomson is said to be the fastest schoolboy bowler in Australian cricket.

Date for canoeists to remember



Afloat on the Medway: young canoeists get a lesson.

Canoeists should have plenty to loiter there at the International Canoe Exhibition, sponsored by the Sports Council and British Canoe Union at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre, London, on February 26-27.

The trade will display scores of different canoe and kayak designs and accessories. All could be helped by the reduction to 12½ per cent of the punitive 25 per cent VAT imposed last year.

For those who want to do it themselves there is advice on how to make a fibreglass craft, a popular project in quite a few schools, saving and canoeing for the disabled.

Some of Britain's Olympic paddlers will be seen in the competi-

Whose needs, whose control?

Douglas Holly argues that questions of standards and core curriculum are irrelevant to the real issues of learning



Left: a seventeenth-century broadsheet produced by the Levellers, who felt men and women should learn the power of knowledge through use. Right: the Prime Minister at Ruskin College last October.

The great debate begun by the Prime Minister at Ruskin College is really a great non-debate. The question now, as always, is not about the education system but "Does it turn out enough people who can read and count?" but "Does it turn out enough people who can think for themselves?"

Not that reading and counting do not matter; such skills are vital to a democracy. But basic skills, while necessary, are not a sufficient requirement. As Paulo Freire has demonstrated with Brazilian peasants, the point about literacy is knowing the social significance of words - or rather the significance of the things and events words stand for.

Not is it enough to use the words to learn history, geography, physics or calculus as propounded by others. The significance of knowledge must be experienced subjectively by human beings as social individuals. This is the difference between real learning and mere erudition.

Our leaders are far from concerning themselves with anything of the sort. The economy, they say, requires such and such skilled workers, such and such technicians, such and such bankers and scientists. The school curriculum should exist to service this need.

Of course, they acknowledge the importance of sport, religion and literature; a healthy mind in a healthy body has always appealed to the rulers of this world. But basically the state maintains schools to service the needs of the state - as perceived by those who run the state, and those in whose interests it is run.

The great non-debate accordingly centres on real educational issues, and seeks instead to elevate such matters as "the monitoring of standards" and the quest for a "core curriculum" both concepts which relate to the content of teaching rather than the nature of learning. As every educational researcher knows, it is possible, if not easy, to devise measures and instruments to test whether pupil A has retained fact X better than pupil B, under optimal conditions, whether fact X has been generalized into an abstraction, or whether it would lay claim to have demonstrated that pupil A had understood fact X, or that fact X was by nature comprehensible to pupil A, or any other in a

given group. The personal-social significance of knowledge is not a question of standards, measuring instruments or core syllabi: these are called burning issues are supreme irrelevancies.

Who is at stake with such things is the familiar old business of sorting, grading and organizing against unmet and unexamined criteria. Argument about whether this or that curriculum has "succeeded" in achieving a higher literacy count or examination pass level, or whether this curriculum requires more or less people to study mathematics than that.

No questions are asked about the reality of learning that has taken place, or about the salience of the knowledge acquired. This state has no interest in such things, it appears.

Three hundred and twenty-five years ago Gerrard Winstanley would have challenged such an appearance. In *The Law of Freedom* in 1650 he wrote:

"But when a studying imagination comes into a man - that is he who puts out the eyes of man's knowledge and tells him he must believe what others have writ or spoken and must not trust his own experience..."

The "kingly spirit" of domination has interests everywhere, and nowhere more so than in the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. It is not what you know that is socially significant, but your grounds for knowing it. Intellectual autonomy rests upon the awe of people in general when confronted with knowledge. And that is as true in 1977, in the age of technology, as it was in Winstanley's day.

To put out the eyes of man's knowledge is to neutralize it, to take away its power, or rather - adding Marx's insight to Winstanley's - to alienate it to the use of others. Winstanley conceived his ideal system of rational education as based on productive labour - man and woman should learn the power of knowledge through use.

In his agrarian Commonwealth the only schools would be for adults - Sunday meetings for the exchange of ideas based on scientific experiment and observation, as well as free discussion of the affairs of the local commune and nation, including the affairs of mankind in general. No one should have authority to dogma-

size: all knowledge and intellectual authority should be referred to concrete experience and public demonstration. Children should learn at work in the home, young people in field and workshop.

History decreed otherwise. Education as it has developed since the Commonwealth has taken the modal of academic speculation - "studying imagination" - over in science. The development of capitalism has forced the centralization and institutionalization of knowledge in a particular way. As Marx put in his *Grundrisse*:

"The knowledge, the judgment and the will which, though in avar so small a degree, are practised by the independent peasant or handicraftsman... these faculties are now all required for the workshop as a whole. Intelligence in production expands in one direction because it vanishes in others."

The very social organization which has made possible the banishment of hunger, poverty and ignorance from the world has separated the individual's learning from his productive action so that, as Marx continues, "The labourer is brought face to face with the intellectual potentials of the material process of production as the property of another and as a ruling power."

It is part of the dialectical contradiction of history that social progress has been via a greater and greater concentration of Winstanley's twin evils: private property and irresponsible power.

No conspiracy theory is required, then, to hear in the present call for centralization and standardization of curriculum the authoritative tones of those who would suppress for ever the possibility of dissent thought. Technical rationality, as Marcuse pointed out, neatly coincides with the interests of domination.

The present system of school autonomy is unidirectional, and the DES have no doubt chafed at it for many years. What more reasonable than to take advantage of the faltering confidence of capitalist and politician to press for greater order and standardization?

Up till now our school system has presented a certain anomaly, an untidy mismatch both in terms of the general economy and polity of the country, and in terms of developed education systems, East and West. The time, one might say, is ripe for change. Why not follow the example of France, West Germany, Scandinavia, not to mention Cuba, East Germany or the Soviet Union?

In a time of economic uncertainty the school system is at least a less dangerous scapegoat than immigration or the trade unions. It is natural to shrug off the present drive for standardization and centralization of curriculum as relatively harmless, perhaps beneficial and, in any case, inevitable.

To believe the last is to give way to historical fatalism: history also proceeds by contention, resistance and counter-initiative. With all its faults, the institution of school is better than the squalor, ignorance and degradation of uneducated youth in an industrial society - and it was an institution that had to be fought for.

The great non-debate is not simply irrelevant. The present untidy, unstandardized, uncentralized English curriculum has one vital redeeming feature: it allows for real educational experiment and development, albeit only in a handful of cases. If this is to be rationalized out of existence by newly-powerful governing bodies, overseeing DES approved curricula with a paraphernalia of monitoring and standardizing tests, more will be lost than a quaint survival.

The reformation we need in our schools is one which strengthens local initiative in developing new approaches, by cultivating the interest of parents and pupils in the basic nature of learning before, during and after schooling, by restoring to people a belief in the touchstone of active experience as opposed to "what others have writ or spoke".

On this alone can be based a return of self-respect to ordinary people, necessary if we are ever to bring about social democracy - and therefore sanity - in the control of the body politic and economic.

Education cannot alone achieve such a revolution: but without it social and political action are bound to fail, for want of confidence and involvement among those very masses for whom and by whom radical change should be carried through.

Douglas Holly is a lecturer in the University of Leicester School of Education, and author of *Society, Schools and Humanity*.

Programme control

Anne Corbett reports on how a centralised curriculum is created and disseminated in France, and what those at the receiving end think about the system

It may just be coincidence that the senior chief of Her Majesty's Inspectors is an ex-university teacher of French. What is not in doubt is that Miss Sheila Browne and the HMIs have a lively enough interest in France to try with two key ideas of the French educational system: a nationally defined curriculum, and a powerful inspectorate to enforce it. Miss Browne herself took an active part in the French Inspectorate's annual conference last year.

So it is timely, as Shirley Williams begins her round of consultations, to see how the French define and create a curriculum, what it looks like, how they impose it legally and through their Inspectorate, and what some people see as the consequence.

Defining a curriculum has never been a problem for the French. They have been doing it ever since Napoleon established a national system so that he could move his vast army of fonctionnaires or state employees around the country. The University of Paris, given the job of running the system, got the most eminent intellectuals of the day to define what the educated person should know: a kind of minimum baggage of knowledge.

Essentially, a practice designed for 5,000 has been extended to cover 12 million: the whole of a modern education system, from nursery school through to university. The French sidestep some of the difficulties by defining curriculum quite simply as syllabus or course programme, and not "everything that happened in school today". And they do it in a way which is still reminiscent of the eighteenth-century intellectuals, or savants.

Today, defining the curriculum is the responsibility of the 129 Inspecteurs Généraux de l'Instruction Publique. They are also responsible, in theory if not in practice, for checking on classroom standards. It says something about the sort of curriculum the French get that most of the inspecteurs généraux are discipline based, and most are recruited from the most academically qualified in a highly selective system. The classic inspecteur général still comes from the very special group who teach the classes préparatoires for the grandes écoles, something like the competitive English sixth form in the heyday of Oxbridge scholarships.

There are other groups within the general inspectorate responsible for primary education and for more general education matters: the *inspecteurs généraux de l'enseignement supérieur*, or as opposed to the teaching of subjects. Rather more of these have been recruited from other sources, such as the *inspecteurs généraux pédagogiques* or the *inspecteurs départementaux*, based on the regional units of educational administration, the *académies*.

The creation of what some commentators call "*sous-inspecteurs*" for the *sous-professions* leaves the still tiny group of *inspecteurs généraux* with their monopoly of curriculum making, still dominated by the separate and powerful nature of the disciplines. *Inspecteurs généraux* are organized in teams, each traditionally battling to retain or increase their discipline's place in the programme. The head, the *représentative permanent* chosen by the inspectors, for appointment by the minister, "is not a director"; emphasizes the present incumbent, M Lucien Gémard, "but a coordinator".

Not unexpectedly, the *inspecteurs généraux* are widely accused of being out of touch. It is an accusation that M Gémard is clearly tired of hearing. "We are always sandwiched between the demands of the universities and the subject experts on the one hand, and teachers on the other. It is our duty to advise

(from Ministry of Education Planned Programmes vol I June, 1976—M Hoby's reform)

Pedagogy by Objectives

The general orientation of the law of July 11, 1975, makes it necessary to think out afresh the objectives of education. Today education must enable pupils not only to acquire certain cultural facts, but should enable them also to acquire methods of thought and action, give them the capability to do particular things and a range of intellectual, manual and social behaviours. That means a reversal of the usual steps which lead to the construction of programmes. It means, first, fixing precisely the objectives to be attained and, after that, deducing content and methods appropriate to the realization of the objectives.

The Main Objectives
A number of general objectives can be proposed for an educational system. But in today's world it seems necessary to give priority to those which will permit a young person to leave school.

- Able to know his capacities
- Able to know the world in which he lives
- With the skills to be autonomous
- Open to change.

the minister on how his pedagogic policy can be conveniently and practically executed. There is no point in recommending a programme which half the teachers cannot teach." He smiles a very little. "Which is why we are accused of being conservative." He adds that it is nothing new to be under these pressures as well as political ones. "We may have to take up the pen several times before a programme is approved."

But "that is not to accept the criticism. You must understand how the system works", he says, quickly drawing a pen. He shows a chain of control, pressing down towards the base. But there is also a chain of information working its way upwards. "Most of my colleagues are in end out of establishments for much of their time. One learns a very great deal that way." Those? In the bath, as the French call the chaise longue, see nothing.

One of his colleagues, M Victor Marbeau, an inspecteur général for history, confirms the image of the man with the overnight bag off to the furthest corners of France. He himself was going to Toulouse next day, and had been in schools the previous week.

He describes the process of making a new programme, and is in a particularly interesting position to do so. The present minister of education, M René Haby, has introduced a plan to change the curriculum of every class between the *école maternelle* and the *baccalauréat* examination. And M Marbeau is working with a team in M Haby's own discipline of geography to produce a new integrated subject of sciences humaines. He says there have been widespread discussions before-hand with the associations of specialist teachers in schools and universities. "This is what he would expect when any new programme was being drawn up."

He talks about the way research into the processes of learning influences the construction of the programme. But here he admits he may not be typical: "One would have to ask each colleague," he says (and indeed he has a reputation of being exceptionally "ouvert"). His wife works at the Institut National de la Recherche Pédagogique, which exploits some of his interest. But he has given it

Learning FRENCH

Classes de sixième et de cinquième (first and second years of secondary schooling)

... Language is a tool to be used more than an object to be studied. But intuitive practice is enriched by reflection on the practice... The teacher may make use of the following suggestions:

- 1.—Activities involving informal dialogue:
 - Arising from a particular episode or the general life of the class
 - In connexion with audio or visual aids capable of generating pupils' personal interests
 - In conjunction with texts
- 2.—Oral and written expression.
 - 3.—Reading, diction, elocution:
 - Training in correct, intelligent and expressive reading
 - Reading with one voice and several
 - Silent reading
 - Rapid reading
 - Training in diction
 - Improvement in elocution

4.—Familiarization with the construction of grammar:

- Exercises in the handling of grammatical structures
- Exercises in the identification of functional groups
- Training in the conjugation and use of verb forms
- 5.—Vocabulary exercises:
 - Quantitative and qualitative exercises: storing with the frequency tables and the acquisition ladders
 - Exercises on the classification and order of words:
 - Study of semantic groupings; lexical sense and contextual sense; lexical groupings
 - Etymological groupings: homonyms, paronyms, synonyms, antonyms
 - Systematic use of a dictionary (This is followed by a series of exercises about grammar, spelling, exercises, and writing/drafting exercises. After this are outlines about methods of work: "Learning a language is also learning a set of operational skills" and the inhibition of a culture "appropriate to our times.")

practical effort in organizing the teaching of some of Jérôme Bruner's work stages of learning, and is circulating to colleagues a paper gleaned from Council of Europe sources on autonomous learning.

"What we are trying to do in the new programme", he says, "is to give pupils concepts and tools. We do not want to weigh them down with studies of Africa or lists of historical dates. We want them to understand the particular language of history and geography, to acquire skills of observation and enquiry. We must of course provide them with a framework of facts so that they can understand the significance of the evidence that they are studying."

This may be a new approach to the minimum baggage of knowledge, but other inspectors speak less of the new and more of the problems for teachers of working with a curriculum of six years from 1966, with its emphasis divided equally between the ministry of education representatives and outside experts. At the end their recommendations were blocked by the minister of the day.

Certainly, too, there is a view within the ministry that all is not as well with the inspectorate as perhaps M Gémard's words suggest. The inspectors' hegemony appeared to come under attack in the mid-sixties, when the Government set up a series of curriculum commissions with eminent outside chairmen drawn from the Collège de France, or the university prominent in the relevant discipline. M Gémard explains these as the most practical way of accommodation, "brutal turning points" in society, where externally chaired commissions encourage public discussion. But others speak of the inspectors being bowled out.

Now, however, the situation is more ambiguous. The minister, M Haby, is exceptional in being a pedagogic teacher: he has worked his way through the system, as primary school teacher, geography specialist and director of the *académies*. He has strong views about the content of the curriculum, which include trying to abolish the strong system of streaming up to the age of 16, and introducing a common curriculum. At the same time, the status of the largely

From Hours, Programmes and Instructions

Le second cycle long conduisant au baccalauréat du second degré 1975

Classe terminale (the pre-baccalauréat year, final year of secondary schooling)

FRENCH

Programme outline

- A major dramatic work of the seventeenth century.
- A philosophical work of the eighteenth century.
- A major poetical work or novel of the nineteenth century.
- Poetry, novels and drama drawn from several twentieth-century works.
- The teacher has complete freedom to choose the works which seem to him to be

best adapted to the abilities and tastes of his pupils.

MODERN LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Combined programme for the three final years of secondary schooling.

- In the first and second years of the three-year course, the texts should for the most part be drawn from British authors of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries; in the final year from American authors.
- Teachers are not forbidden to make a start on some American writers during the first two years, or to study a few pages from British authors in the final year class.
- In the first of the three years, depending on the level of the class, a few scenes from Shakespeare may be studied.

French style

discipline-based inspectorate links greater. M Haby has re-established curriculum commissions, with the *inspecteurs généraux* as chairmen. He is also increasing the numbers of the other sorts of inspector.

Nevertheless *Le Monde*, never very friendly to him, commented in December, when the first details of his curriculum reform were published, that "the pedagogical research findings and a clear sense of realism". But while French commentators argue among themselves as to whether they are now seeing a demonstration of personal power at the ministry, one thing at least does not change. The process of programme making happens a very long way from the classrooms.

What do programmes look like? You can no longer look at a chart in the Minister of Education's will, and he told what every child in France is doing at that moment. But if you walk into the Ministry of Education's marketing organization SEVEN (*Service d'Édition et de Vente des Publications Nationales*), in one of the regional centres for information used by teachers, you can buy either booklets indicating the general lines for the primary school or the extremely detailed programmes for the lower and upper secondary school (see panels). Also available now are M Haby's proposals for the first two classes to be affected by his reform (the beginning of the primary school and the beginning of the secondary school), which will take effect from September, 1977.

Yet so much of what happens in my classroom results from the interaction of particular teachers with particular pupils. At the programmes really imposed, is it all an elaborate paper exercise? Twenty or so pupils in two different secondary schools could not remember seeing an inspector in their class more than once, and usually the inspector had seen him and not been one of the *inspecteurs généraux*.

At one of the most famous Paris lycées, Louis le Grand, a French teacher looked in astonishment at the *Hours, Programmes and Instructions* booklet, and asked what it was. A teacher at a private technical secondary school told he had never inspected programmes, and neither inspectors nor his school director had expected him to. As he described it, the school was taking the rejects of the system, many of them pushed out of the ordinary secondary schools at 14. No inspector could do better than him at making his pupils want to learn, and no one knew how to write that into a programme.

M Antoine Prost, a well-known historian of French education, puts forward the view that programmes are not respected. Otherwise one of the unions would not be campaigning for the teachers' right to be forewarned of inspectors' visits (o right M Haby himself said teachers should have when he addressed the last conference of the *inspecteurs généraux*).

But there are factors which suggest that, even if programme are mythical, the myth is likely to be upheld. There is a powerfully effective diffusion of the general ideas. The law is used for statements of intent. M Haby's law of July 11, 1975, declaring the need to moderate primary and secondary education.

One stage later come the decrees, which the minister makes with the approval of the Council of Ministers. M Hoby's decrees have just been published. The 170 or so clauses deal with the organization of schools, financial arrangements and rights of parents. Next will come the ministerial orders ("arrêts"), specifying the details of the programmes and hours. Those taking effect in 1977 have now been approved

From Hours, Programmes and Instructions

Le premier cycle 1976, Classe de cinquième (second year of secondary schooling)

FRENCH

1.—Study of language

- Study and testing of spelling. Revision of verbal forms which have to be thoroughly known.
- Vocabulary study: increase in vocabulary through the use of exercises: literal senses and figurative senses.
- Independent clauses; the verb in independent clauses. The sentence and groups of words in a sentence. Brief study of subordinate clauses. Agreements. Punctuation.
- Detailed study of the noun. Accompanying words (articles, adjectives). Complements. Substitutes. Pronouns.
- Elementary study of the alexandrine verse form: syllable counting, rhythm, accent, rhyme (these ideas must be taught during the course of exercises and reading, and must emerge from the text being studied).

2.—Applied exercises

- Study of spelling, punctuation. Exercises and dictations followed by sentence analysis.
- Oral study of French, from texts.
- Explanation of texts, first those where the pupils work in their own, and those in which they work at the teachers' direction.
- Learning by heart: diction and dramatization exercises.
- Reading to be done in such a way that the pupils will have in summary briefly in class to act them accustomed to expressing themselves correctly and easily.
- Exercises on the different ways of expressing a thought by varying the grammatical form.
- Group oral and written exercises: description and narration. This can lead to texts to be read and commented on.

3.—Authors

Compulsory

- Short stories and extracts from writers and poets of the Middle Ages translated into modern French.

—Molière: *Les Fourberies de Scapin*.

—La Fontaine: Fables from Books, IV, V and VI.

- Prose and poetry extracts from French writers from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries.
- Victor Hugo: *La Conscience*, *Le Mariage de Rolland*, *Auvergnat*, *Les Pauvres Gens*.
- Short stories and prose extracts from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- Alphonse Daudet: *Lettres de mon moulin*.
- Supplementary readings:
 - Short stories and extracts from classical and foreign writers of the Roman period and Middle Ages.

MODERN LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Pronunciation

Revision of basic sounds, especially the *minut* sound. Accent and rhythm. Sounds formed by groups of letters. Use of weak forms of language.

Vocabulary

Revision and extension of vocabulary gained during the previous year. Beginnings of vocabulary on: the country, animals and vegetable life, nature; the sea, the sky and stars; journeys; the town and the street; jobs and leisure time activities; the child in the family and at school (it would be wise not to give more than 500-700 new words).

Grammar

The idea of complements. Deeper study than previous year of pronouns, relative adjectives, questions, indefinite articles. Subordinate clauses. Tenses and modes. Greater study of auxiliary verbs. The passive.

Oral expression

Training in all forms of oral expression: conversation, recitation, singing, reading. Readings in which the teacher is to exploit the vocabulary and grammar and to give a simple commentary in English.

Written exercises

The same as in the previous year, but more complex.

Authors

Simple original texts from the best authors. Adaptations. Brief readings.

by the statutorily consultative councils, and details have just appeared in the press. When ready for implementation they are published in the *Bulletin Officiel*, which is circulated to all heads of establishments and incorporated into such teacher training as exists. Inspectors, with their dual responsibility for schools and universities, see that the two work in parallel.

This diffusion gets taken up by the publishers, who are widely accused of getting preferential treatment from the ministry. (The association of history teachers is currently complaining that the publishers were told of the Haby plan for the new programme long before they were. M Marbeau, the history inspector, says they have all told the general outlines at the same time.) The publishers certainly vie with each other to produce textbooks which are faithful to the programmes. They get inspectors to write books, or to sign personal recommendations for them.

There are fears of sanctions, as a pupil at the Louis le Grand lycée put it: "Of

independent, like Louis le Grand, nor disadvantaged enough to be sunk in its new problems. But the technical school, who stressed what is surely the key: they believed in nationally defined programmes.

In a bleak staffroom, in Drency, a northern suburb of Paris, teachers at an 11 to 16 secondary school complained of many programme details: too overloaded in history, too many problems in changing to audio visual methods in German, when parents insisted that each textbook should have at least five years' use. More fundamentally, they complained that the teacher "in the bath" was never consulted about the classroom implications of programmes.

They positively wanted more educational discussions: staying after school to talk like this was the first such discussion for months. But they did not dispute the idea of a programme. Cultural unity was important. Continuity was important. They too recognized the "minimum baggage of knowledge".

They were echoed elsewhere: by the Louis le Grand pupils, one autonomous learner apart, by their teachers, by the associations of parents and the teachers' unions. They argued about the amount of flexibility to be given to teachers (more than the 10 per cent of the framework of the programme, but the only people to say that they were opposed to fixed programmes because they had little educational value were researchers. This includes the director of the biggest research section of the Institut National de la Recherche Pédagogique, M Louis le Grand, who feels that programmes are inappropriate for perhaps three-quarters of pupils.

There remains scope for argument about the results. Examination results, with all their weaknesses, are the most objective measure. But the French have not gone in for any systematic measurement of how standards change over time.

So, while the Drency pupils produced the conventional wisdom of one side ("their parents thought they learnt much more in school these days"), many others echoed the conventional hostility. Standards were slipping, especially since 1968. "Some of them show great concern about M Haby's 'softness' in trying to abolish streams.

On a different tack, there is growing currency in left wing circles for the view that the curriculum is not an ideologically neutral instrument for selecting pupils by merit, but yet another weapon of the ruling class, designed to perpetuate its position. Not that there are much signs of alternatives. Though the common programme of the socialist and communist parties suggests a "global and coherent" revision of programmes, it leaves aside the key questions of who should define and police them. In that context another current argument, for making inspectors "animators not exterminators", sounds a bit weak.

As the English show signs of reconsidering the totally teacher-made curriculum in favour of some common core, the conclusion from French experience are twofold. We have a great deal to learn on the techniques of describing that "minimum baggage". But that is not to say that one also has to adopt French methods of creation and control. As the no-one-ness M Gémard put it: "*La France est la France: we all distrust each other*".

The English, in attempting to move an education *mechina* which is in different ways as unwieldy as the French, must surely look for a balance, which retains some trust but makes the curriculum public.

The great debate

H. C. Dent

Oxford Review of Education, Volume two, number three, 1976, and Volume three, number one, 1977 (special double issue), 1800, annually (three issues a year). Available from Corfax Publishing Company, Haddon House, Hinchley-on-Thames, Oxford OX9 8JZ.

"Until recently the major function of the history of education", writes Dr Charles Webster, Director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford, in his paper in this collection of essays, "has been to familiarize intending teachers with notable steps in the development of the modern system of public education."

If one accepts this statement, one must agree with Dr Webster that the approach to the writing of educational history which it implies is too narrowly vocational; and therefore welcome the task of reading his and the 10 following essays in this extended number of the Oxford Review of Education, since their purpose is to demonstrate an approach which is "widening the horizons of the history of education."

The criticism their authors make of the traditional history of education is pie-pointed by Professor Harold Silver, of Chelsea College, London University, when he declares that most of what has been written about popular education in the Victorian age offers:

"few or no real clues as to relationships in schools, their role in the community, or as to the social structures and processes which underlie and change ideas and assumptions, in which education was intricately involved. The educational historians represented in this volume believe that their broader outlook involves reference to all means employed by the community for the socialization of the younger generation." In the words of Mrs Joan Simon, whose 1970 book *The Social Origins of English Education* broke a hitherto new ground: "It is no longer possible to maintain the traditional division between formal and informal modes, schooling and upbringing in the activities of later life. Schools can only be properly understood if they are studied as part of the more general framework of education."

Not all these essays traverse so broad a field. Mr Norman Morris,

of Manchester University, writing about Robert Lowe's Revised Code, confines himself to its financial aspect. Two fascinating glimpses of European education: in nineteenth-century Brittany, by Robert Giddens, St John's College, Oxford, and "Of the educational policy of the Social Democratic Party in Germany between 1906 and 1922" by Ian C. Wilson, deal almost exclusively with political conflicts, largely between Church and State. Other essays illustrate more fully the broader approach. Steven Shupin and Barry Barnes, of Edinburgh University, explore British pedagogical writing between 1770 and 1850. Professor Thomas Lantieri, University of California at Berkeley, the cultural origins of popular literacy in England between 1800 and 1850.

Carol Dyhouse, of Sussex University, recounts the attempts made in England between 1890 and 1920 to limit girls' education, especially in the elementary schools, towards domestic subjects and mothercraft, and the anxieties caused by those attempts. Ian Inkster, of the University of New South Wales, analyses the various origins, social composition, functions, needs, and causes of decline, of the Mechanics' Institutes in England between 1820 and 1850.

Professor Martin Kaplan, of Emory University, USA, summarizes the criticisms made of the reports of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education 1967-73—"the most thorough investigation of education of any type, in any nation, and at any time in history"—and considers why it omitted answering "the most important questions": what to educate for, and how, and why?

Whatever their subject or scope, these essays are all intrinsically interesting and valuable. They are all scholarly works, and must be extensively documented—and therefore the criticisms made of the reports of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education 1967-73—"the most thorough investigation of education of any type, in any nation, and at any time in history"—and considers why it omitted answering "the most important questions": what to educate for, and how, and why?

By the discussions they should fuel, they could make a helpful contribution to our current "Great Debate".

Borderlines of fiction

Kenneth Cripwell on the African novel

The Bride Price. By Buchi Emecheta. Alliston and Dursy £3.50. 85031 165 5.

Survive the Peace. By Cyprian Ekwensi. Heinemann £3.75. 435 90644 5.

Sunset at Dawn. By V. Chivwemeka Ike. Collins Harvill £3.50. 00 261807 9.

The Great Ponds. By Elechi Amadi. Retold by John Durey. Heinemann 45p.

Four novels, all by the writers, are concerned in the main with Eastern Nigeria. One deals with a period just before independence, two with the civil war and the last with pre-colonial or even prehistoric times.

The best of the bunch is *The Bride Price* by Buchi Emecheta, a customary tale set in the 1950s. A young girl who loses her father has to return with her mother and younger brother to her family's home village. There her mother is "inherited" by her father's brother. She is allowed to continue her education in Lagos but only because this will enhance her value as a bride price to be paid to her "father".

She falls in love with her schoolmaster, a young man with some education and prospects of going on to university. But marriage is out of the question. He is the son of a womanizer who cannot be said to be a missionary to the masses. He is given to the missionaries to appease them when they opened schools. Marriages with him would be against all the taboos of the community.

However, when Akunno begins to realize what is expected of her as a bride, she escapes with her lover, Choko. But is it really an escape? Her offences against the

customs of her people which clash with the values she and Choko have acquired from their contacts with Western ideas seem to follow her remorselessly and the story ends in tragedy.

Throughout the novel, the author exhibits a great sense of control over the story and its elements, giving the reader a sharp picture of the place of the woman in the society of the time.

In *The Bride Price* there is no strain in the dialogue: it is English without any attempt to base it on a translation from Ibo. This is something that cannot be said about the next two novels. Both of them suffer from the fact that English has to serve for English, Pidgin English and Ibo. These different forms of English often represent specific social settings and need to be carefully handled. In both novels the result is so unattractive because of its use of unattractive English.

The final novel of the group is an adaptation by John Durey of a series of books in the form of the EPL/ESL market and, possibly for the remedial market in the country (other authors in the series are Steinbeck, Galsworthy and Dickens).

But is it good enough? The original novel deals with the relationship between human beings and the gods. The narrative is important only in what it has to say about the relationship. In adapting the novel to the EPL/ESL market, the author has lost the point of the story. It is more likely to turn readers against novels from overseas than to attract children and adults in this country to a fuller knowledge of the African novel.

A source to be tapped

Sinclair Goodall on voluntary work

A Chance to Serve. By Alec Dickson, edited by Moro Dickson. Denton, Dursy £4.25. 234 77888 1.

Young People as Volunteers. By Mog Ball. Heinemann £3.50. 435 90644 5.

The Volunteers Centre (29 Lower King's Road, Berkhamstead, Herts) £1.00.

One peculiar characteristic of modern society is the increasing rapid division of work into specialized tasks, with a jealous guarding of lines of demarcation which makes it difficult for anyone to offer help to anyone else without a professional licence, or a union card, or doing so. Fortunately, this is counter-balanced by the spread of volunteering. These two books respectively give a lively impression of the history and detailed practical account of volunteering.

A Chance to Serve is a personal and intellectual biography of Alec Dickson, founder of Voluntary Service Overseas and of Community Jeddah in the United States as father of the Peace Corps idea. In many thousands of people whose lives have been touched and enriched by this extraordinarily charismatic man will value the initiative of his wife, Moro, who has edited many of his occasional papers into a superbly readable chronicle of his thinking as influ-

enced by his experience as a journalist, as an army officer, as a young East African, as founder of Man O'War Bay training centre, as head of a UNESCO mission, as manager of Hungarian refugees, and in particular as a volunteer in the field of international youth.

One would have valued more detail in some places (about the rift with VSO, for example), but this book is principally valuable as a history of ideas in volunteering—Alec Dickson always moving on from established bases to the forefront of opinion.

Young People as Volunteers is a study, based on some 200 interviews, of how volunteering operates in practice. Although the principal findings are somewhat submerged in the detail, Mog Ball's report gives an admirable account of motivation, recruitment, induction, work, impact, support, wastage, and organization in volunteer organizations using young people. Mog Ball shows how well-thought-out jobs attract volunteers, and she offers abundant information about tasks carried out by school children. Her interviews also reveal many of the difficulties of running volunteer activities smoothly. Teachers are often desperately overworked and are given no time to make appropriate placements or to attend to the necessary administration. Insen-

sitive and inflexible organization in "voluntary" agencies (such as hospitals) can also lead to problems. Mog Ball shows how volunteering seems to satisfy basic needs of young people for a sense of belonging, of importance, of esteem, of worthwhileness; it can give the adolescent a choice of career, and can provide admirable resources for academic reflection. Why, then, is community service not built into the curriculum? Characteristics of the curriculum? Characteristics of the curriculum? Characteristics of the curriculum?

Alec Dickson's concern to create "a social climate of volunteerism" involves an imaginative sharing of the traditional functions of social institutions. A *Chance to Serve* illustrates, with copious quotation, how his strategic thinking about volunteering has evolved and is being put into practice. It is a tactical level how some of the ideas can be applied.

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Clash of cultures

Three Short Novels from Papua and New Guinea, by Beojamin Umba, August Wicak, and Jim Belatal. Edited by Mike Greaves. Longman Paul £2.60. 582 71437 0.

All three of these novels are concerned with the contact between the tribes of Papua and New Guinea and Western civilization leading to independence. The settings are refreshingly new but the stories themselves are not exceptional. There is an overall similarity in style; one wonders how much editing was done by Mike Greaves.

Among this week's contributors:

Lord Briggs is Provost of Worcester College, Oxford.
Kenneth Cripwell is at the University of London Institute of Education.
Sinclair Goodall is at the department of chemical engineering at Imperial College, London.
Allister Wisker is head of the school of arts at the Polytechnic of the South Bank.
David Wright is the editor of *The Penguin Book of English Verse*.

Paperbacks

American lights and shades

Redburn. By Herman Melville. Edited by Harold Beaver. Penguin £1.00. 14 043 105 5.

The Science Fiction of Edgar Allan Poe. Collected and edited by Harold Beaver. Penguin 90p. 14 043 106 3.

Winesburg, Ohio. By Sherwood Anderson. Introduction by Malcolm Cowley. Penguin 75p. 14 00 0609 5.

Melville described *Redburn*, his fourth novel, as "a thing which I, the author, know to be trash". The novel concerns the development of Yallingborough Redburn from innocence through experience to self-knowledge. His travels take him from New York to the vividly described Liverpool, and thence on a mysterious escapade amid the shocking carry-on of London. On the tragic journey home Redburn witnesses starvation, cholera and victimisation. All this undoubtedly serves as a cautionary tale.

But there is more of interest here than either biographical data or Melville's own deprecation indicate. A number of themes emerge which shape the course of Melville's writing career. These include the inevitable gravitation of innocence towards evil; the dual function of a voyage

as the basis of narrative and the catalyst of self-discovery; and relationships between men of, on the one hand, inexplicable sudden hatred and, on the other, vital camaraderie.

The Science Fiction of Edgar Allan Poe shares with *Redburn* the laudable aim, in this case, particularly comprehensive editorship of Harold Beaver. Towards the end of his introduction to this anthology of Poe's work, Beaver writes: "The encountered science as the precise mathematical quantum between Truth and Beauty". In other words, Poe was miraculously engendered from the soul of Keats and the mind of Newton. In this anthology, however, the science fiction of Poe has become his apocalyptic prophet and pioneer of science fiction.

Poe has always provoked a divergence of critical opinion. He has been cited as the inventor of the detective story and as the major precursor of the French Symbolist movement. Whatever the critical claims and controversies, though, these stories display Poe's hallmarks of variety of effects and his command of detail and exposed-nerve atmosphere.

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Adult's-eye view

Writers, Critics and Children. Edited by Geoff Fox et al. Heinemann Educational £4.95. 435 18302 & £1.95. 435 18303 6.

There is no doubt about the writers; Nina Baym, John Aiken and Geoffrey Trease are all the sort of names you might expect. The critics, however, are not so obvious. I'm afraid our books get treated with love rather than respect. So sticks to any reader who loves tidily.

Russell Lytham has a nicely turned essay on Robin Hood as an emblem of the contemporary ideal which usually knuckles down to law-abiding existence with the return of the king, or rightful authority. But he regrets rather than endorses the myth, having a natural, shrewd preference for the green world of the forest. It is a pity that Lytham's own children's novel, *The Mouse and His Child*, should, with the conversion of villainous Manny Rat and the re-assimilation of the interred wind-up's into the world of suburban dolls' house.

Many evergreen characters of children's literature are present in this volume: the criterion by which award-winners are judged in Dominic Illihard's attack on the Carnegie panel, the uses of violence, touched on by Penelope Farmer and also down on like a ton of bricks, in Holbrook's essay on C. S. Lewis's

cataloguing the items, culinary and otherwise, which you might come across as bookmarks in her own children's comments. History and sagas, she writes, "I'm afraid our books get treated with love rather than respect". So sticks to any reader who loves tidily.

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Unravelling the magic

Coleridge's Poetic Intelligence. By John Beer. Macmillan £8.95. 333 21312 2.

Dr John Beer is perhaps the best living Coleridge scholar. His new book, as might be expected, is a valuable contribution to the unravelling of Coleridge's thought, and the particularly emphasizes the early and fundamental influence of the German mystic Jacob Boehme on Coleridge's speculative ideas. As he points out, Boehme and Coleridge—whose thinking had remarkable affinity—were the only English writers of their time to mention Boehme with respect. It was Boehme who the eighteenth-century mechanistic view of the universe, towards an organic and vitalist concept, and to the world as a living world, and to the world in the correspondence between man and nature; to the philosophy of nature, as it were, of Romanticism.

ancient, Coleridge gained valuable insights. Hence, for example, his interest in animal magnetism, hypnosis, and mesmerism. And, as Dr Beer demonstrates, Coleridge's ubiquitous curiosity and philosophical speculations have their flowering in his poetry, in particular the three magical pieces, *Kubla Khan*, *The Ancient Mariner*, and *Christabel*. Dr Beer is equally illuminating in other influences on Coleridge's thought and imagery—his friendship with the scientist Humphrey Davy, for example. That other fruitful relationship between Coleridge and William and Dorothy Wordsworth is efficiently re-examined. If Coleridge taught Wordsworth to think, in turn the Wordsworths' taught Coleridge to see.

This is, however, a difficult book, best fitted for specialists and scholars. Those whose bias is for philosophy will be more taken with the than those concerned with poetry. It is, however, a difficult book, best fitted for specialists and scholars. Those whose bias is for philosophy will be more taken with the than those concerned with poetry. It is, however, a difficult book, best fitted for specialists and scholars. Those whose bias is for philosophy will be more taken with the than those concerned with poetry.

Mary Hoffman

TES

Guide to Careers in Education 1977-78

General Editor: Tony Howarth

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Children's literature

In and out of the workhouse

Shirley Toulson

If I Survive. By Patricia Miles. Hamish Hamilton £3.25. 241 89458 1. Ask Me No Questions. By Ann Schlee. Macmillan £3.25. 333 19907 3. Silver Everything and Money Mansions. By Winifred Cowley. Oxford University Press £2.95. 19 271389 2. Silver's Pearls. By Harriet Gosham. Hamish Hamilton £3.25. 241 89423 9.

It is common enough to find good adventure stories made out of the great events of history; but it is much more satisfying to read those that are built around the lives of ordinary or even very poor people and which manage to convey the daily experiences of other times.

Patricia Miles is adept at such story telling. Her first book, *Moby-Dog's Child*, was acclaimed by Leon Garfield, and she has stayed in the eighteenth century for her second. *If I Survive* is based on the true account of an elderly and much married English lady, whose fourth husband, the Irish colonel Maura, kept her imprisoned in his house for 20 years, because she would not hand over her jewels. History relates that she was befriended by a poor peasant woman and her son and with their help smuggled the jewels out of the country.

Mrs Miles has imagined the son's story, so he journeyed with the precious package from his Irish cabin, first to London and then to Mrs Maura's family home in Hertfordshire. Roly starts his journey as a stowaway on a collier bound for Antwerp. From that town he sets out to walk the 300-odd miles south to London. For companionship he has Moses, a Lancashire orphan who befriended him on the boat. Both boys are on the hunt for Maura, the wife of the poor law administrator who has separated him from his sister and bound him as a parish oppres-

sioner; and Roly from the accomplices of the wicked colonel. But even if that were not the case the long journey would be hazardous enough. Mrs Miles has no need to exaggerate the difficulties of a journey along the eighteenth-century English roads, and her tale serves to remind us how near impossible communications were only 200 years ago. Along the way the lads encounter gypsies; take for some miles to the wild lonely stretch of a deserted drove way; and Roly even finds himself in a Birmingham prison for practising the mysteries which he had learnt from the secret brotherhood, who know how to bring horses totally within their command.

It is the really poor that interest Mrs Miles. The Irish peasants and the English vagabonds and vagrants in this story are much more fully realized than the wicked colonel and his somewhat sinister lady. The front page between the haves and the have-nots will be acute in the mid-nineteenth century, in which Ann Schlee has set her new book, *Ask Me No Questions*. She also bases her story on fact; a flagrant case of child exploitation which when it came to light engaged the active sympathy of Charles Dickens. In 1847 a Mr Bartholomew Drouet of Tooting found it profitable to relieve the parishes of their workhouse children by underlining to lodge them and instruct them in useful trades at the rate of 4s 6d per week. He collected over 1,000 children and, needless to say, barely fed them.

The book is about those children as they were observed by Laura and her younger brother Roly, who have been sent to rural Tooting to avoid the children's workhouse in London. They stay with their Aunt Lullinger, a lady of fairly tale awfulness, whose concerns are only with the appearance of things and the need to be deemed gentle by her neighbours. Aunt Lullinger, who discovers something of what is going on in the next door orphanage, has to keep her suspicions to herself, and to steal

from her aunt's larder to feed the starving children. It's a tale of confrontation between cruelty, complicity and compassion that could only have taken place at a time in social history when the necessity to remain "respectable" outweighed every other human attribute.

Silver Everything is also about keeping up appearances, although this time that activity has a more amiable interpretation. It is about the determination to hang on to every last vestige of self-respect, which was shown by the great numbers of the unemployed in county Durham in the twenties. This proud way of coping with poverty must sometimes have been bewildering to a child, and that is what interests Mrs Cowley. Her previous book about Jimmy Friend, *Gran of Coalgate*, won the 1974 Guardian Award. Jimmy was 11 in that book; these two new stories are set three years, to the time when Jimmy's parents start shop-keeping. This is an important step in their lives, for the general store they take over is not in the respectable chapel-going area of the town, and it gets less and less possible for Mr and Mrs Friend to keep up the standards they expect when they were in service with the gentry.

Although it all takes place so near our own time, *Silver Everything* deals with a way of life as remote and vanished as the Tooting countryside. Yet the reactions of good-natured, alert and sensitive child to what is going on around her do not change, and Jimmy's hopes and fears will be easily understood by young readers.

After the lazy daisy

Phoebe Latham

Designing for Embroidry from Ancient and Primitive Sources. By Joan Messent. (4.95. 289 70600 9. *Design for Embroidry*. By Betty Whyatt and Joan Osland. Mills and Boon £4.95. 263 05893 X. *Needlework*. By Winifred Butler. Pan £1.50. 330 24794 8. *Imaginative Canvas Embroidry*. By Nancy Outram Hobbs. Pitman £3.95. 273 00867 6. *Four Way Bargello*. By Dorothy Koestner. Mills and Boon £4.50. 263 06230 9. *Painting with Stitches*. By Vera P. Gaid. Ward Lock £6.50. 87192 080 8.

The word "embroidry" (like "education") has many connotations; it may conjure up the image of a young Queen in prison stitching her monogram; it may suggest a seventeenth-century Mogul satin coat in the V and A, its delicate creoset background exquisitely covered with peacocks and butterflies, lions, mountains and waterfalls; or it may refer to the Tailor of Gloucester's cherry-flowered waistcoat. It might refer to a laboriously grubby and tear-stained "trov-cloth" in *lazy-daisy* stitch. For this modern design student it is more than likely to signify a range of canyolices, tied up with strings, studded with milk-bottle tops, and hanging from the ceiling.

Our difficulty today, in needlework as elsewhere, is an ombarras de richesce. Not only are traditional models readily available—from India to Lepland, China to Persia—but the modern world offers limitless. Man-made fibres and fibres have revolutionized techniques; any colour or texture can easily be achieved—chickenwire and pebbles and polystyrene join forces with floss silk and chacoacloth and old ropes. (Cheap materials obviously have strong appeal, since for example, the cost of the wool alone for a crocheted jacket shown recently on a popular television series was £20.)

Living styles have altered too. How many of us regularly use tablecloths, let alone "clovel seas" and the other items that need not only washing but careful ironing? Perhaps partly as a result of this decrease in the utilitarian function, much more time is spent on "for" anything. It is a picture, a well-hanging, a happening. Floundering in the debris of our shored-up innocence, we shall find help and guidance in the flood of books on needlecraft coming from England and America. For there is certainly a growing interest in the craft and its use, of one's own or another's. This book underlines the fact that modern ideas have their own rigidity; what happens to the child who keeps doing small regular stitches for chancing its tables or decorations?

Jan Messent, discussing design from ancient and primitive sources, defines embroidery as "a creative art using any yarn and fabric tech-

nique, including... macramé, all-loom weaving, knitting, crocheting, rug-hooking, tufting and solving the caves of Altamira, the Ulling, ton White Horse, and African masks. The book is handsomely illustrated, but crams in so much (blackwork is instilled by bits and pieces, quilting by applied work) that the reader, unless very patient and unimpaired, may feel overwhelmed. (And she will be cut not to ask what the pattern of a piece of distorted string looks like with a stick through it, which she like the tangled jargon from the bottom of an old workbasket.) Betty Whyatt's and Joan Osland's advice on design is full of constructive and practical suggestions, based on their teaching experience at Llandaff college of education. They manage to make the reader jump into "I can't draw" burda, giving basic education about colour and shape (positive and negative), and repetition. Some of their work is reminiscent of Charles Keppel's illustrations. There is a short section on traditional embroidery, and another on the decoration of clothes (where the fashion designer's ideas are less successful since a human form is, after all, roughly symmetrical).

A useful introduction to practical embroidery (and for the modestly priced of the bunch under review) is Winifred Butler's *Needlework* (where the author's advice on equipment, cleaning, and such valuable hints as "cover worked soles in tissue to prevent soiling and rubbing when work is in progress"). She describes a variety of techniques, from patchwork to Baker's stitches, from needlepoint to Admirably clear diagrams show how to work every stitch.

And how many stitches there are! Nancy Outram Hobbs describes over 70 in canvas work alone, ranging from tent stitch to double leviathan. In fact over half the 120 pages are devoted to detailed descriptions of stitches. Her list of supplies is the fullest of the six.

Dorothy Koestner's book on *Four Way Bargello* is also concerned solely with canvas work, showing how to use the popular Florentine stitch outwards in four directions from a central point, rather than in the usual horizontal bands or waves. There are many elaborate diagrams of possible designs. The book is slanted towards an American readership; the author and her husband run a "Handicraft Shoppe". Another American importation is Vera P. Gaid's *Painting with Stitches*. One might say that this paradoxical (for instance, in the great Graham Sutherland tapestry in Coventry Cathedral tapestry) states actual brush strokes). There are some horrors here: a feather-necklace in macramé, crocheted fruit and flowers, pillows, and a coat for "cushions". This book underlines the fact that modern ideas have their own rigidity; what happens to the child who keeps doing small regular stitches for chancing its tables or decorations?

Stick and sew

Helen Stanley on felt work

Felt Craft. By Florence Tomko. World's Work £2.10. 437 78223 9.

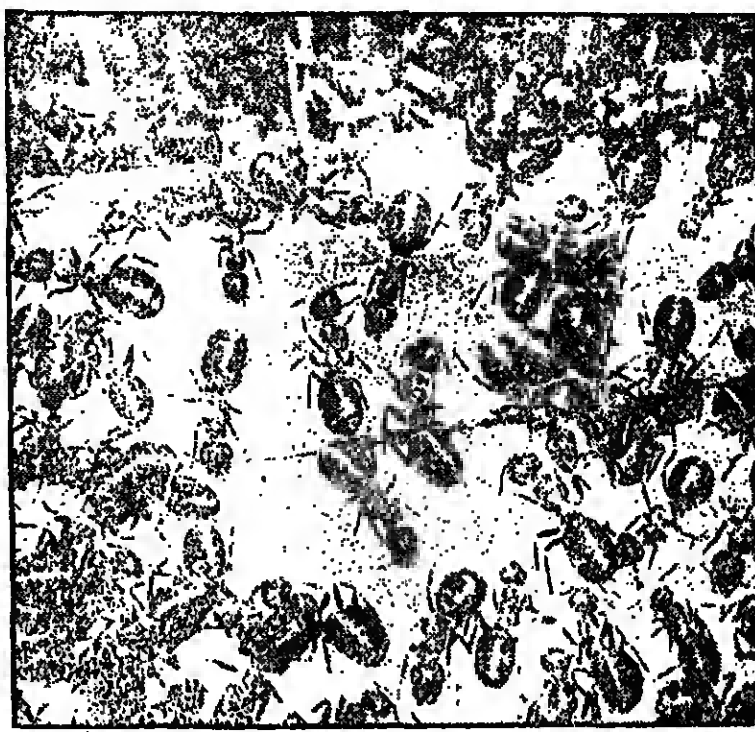
The development of manipulative skills and awareness of spatial relationships is one of the most important needs of the primary school child. In aiming to satisfy this need, when planning projects for this age group, the choice of materials must be of a kind that can be handled easily and imaginatively by the young beginner. In this way, the simple potential can be developed and learning can take place. Felt is a wise choice. It is more pliable than paper and, as a fabric, it is in its own right, a good preparation for sewing and working on other materials later on. It comes in different thicknesses and in a variety of colours, is cut easily and

does not fray—all qualities which make it ideally suited for cutting into shapes, sawing, sticking and drawing on. Florence Tomko has exploited the characteristics of felt with skill, imagination and humour. She begins with a list of materials. The "Story of Felt" is a history of the material, and the materials required to make many things in the book. Basic instructions for handsewing paper patterns follow. Over 20 projects for making all kinds of animals and flowers, hand puppets, bracelets and dolls' clothes are clearly described with excellent diagrams, line drawings and photographs. Colour is used to good effect throughout and measurements are given in imperial and metric units. Both adults and children will be delighted with the

Closely observed colonies

JOY D. I. SPOCZYNSKA describes how to build, stock and study a formicarium

An artificial ant nest, or formicarium, is easy to build and simple to observe. It can be kept in a biology laboratory, classroom, or outdoors in a greenhouse or garden shed if there is adequate protection from the weather. The formicarium can be made by anyone who is reasonably handy with saw, hammer and screwdriver. The simplest way to build the frame is to start with two pieces of ordinary picture glass about 12in by 18in or so and attach these to the outside of a wooden framework extending round three sides, as shown in diagram A. The wood should be of 1in square section. The glass can be bound to the wood with strong adhesive linen tape (diagram B).



Photograph: George E. Hilda

Two wooden blocks are then cut to fit, in which the formicarium will stand on one edge (diagram C). These blocks should be cut from the heaviest type of wood available, and the completed formicarium should be placed securely on a firm base where it is not likely to be knocked over.

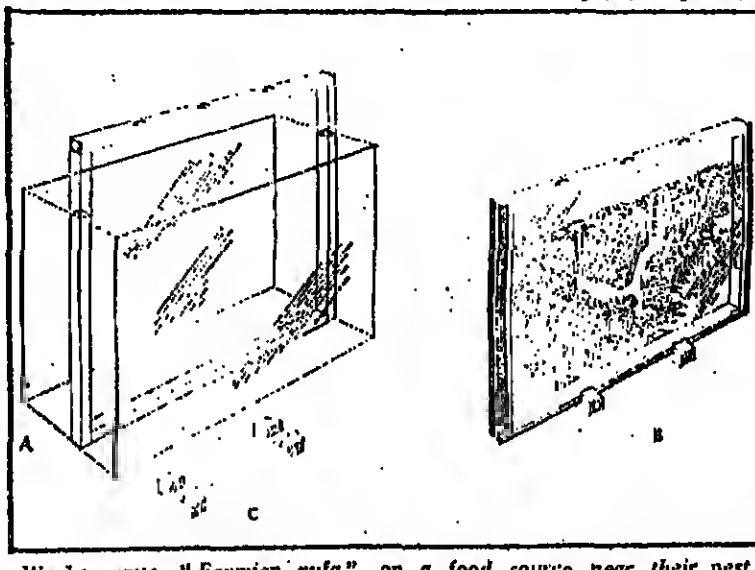
The fourth edge which forms the top is removable. Three holes must be bored through to facilitate the provision of water and food. The first hole should be filled with a small piece of sponge which must be kept moist with water. The middle opening should be connected with a tube and water in a shallow reservoir. The third hole, which should be fitted with a cork, is used for inserting films and other small insects.

The ants are introduced by digging into the nest with the woods and scooping out a mixture of ants, brood, soil and pine needles into a cloth bag. *Formica rufa*, the wood ant or red ant, is not only the commonest British species and the easiest to obtain but also lends itself to a number of interesting experiments.

Despite its commonness there are still aspects of its behaviour which are not fully understood or documented. New facts about *Formica rufa* are being recorded all the time by entomologists, many of whom are amateurs, and it is well within the ability of an observant student to add to our knowledge by his or her carefully recorded observations.

The best digging implement to use for collection is a strong farrow trowel about 12in long. A large bag should be made of strong linen, with a drawing of the top. Do not use plastic bags. Heat and condensation will kill the ants. On a collecting expedition a large white sheet can be spread adjacent to the nest and under the bag, so that any escaping ants which are especially important to the colony, such as the queen or any winged forms, can be seen.

Eggs, larvae and pupae should be included as well as workers, and the queen must, of course, be collected. Dig up the nest rapidly with as little disruption as possible and with the queen first, or she will escape. A pair of long tweezers with fine round points is useful for lifting her, and she should be carried separately in a glass syphon tube closed with a cork, and not dropped into the bag with the workers and brood.



Worker ants, "Formica rufa", on a food source near their nest. Diagram of the construction of an artificial ant nest drawn by Melchior Spoczynski.

Winged forms should also be transported in this. It is essential that the queen be housed with the other members of the colony; otherwise the community will not function. The queen is easily recognized by her much larger size. Put a few twigs into the bag to help support the weight of soil and pine needles, so that the ants are not crushed during transport.

If possible the formicarium should face east, since most ants' nests are built this way. The early sun has a beneficial effect on the metabolism of the ants and therefore the temperature regulation of the interior of the nest is easier.

A Japanese observer, Matsuo Kato, recorded in 1925 that ants which built their nests from decayed plant materials would block up the nest with their bodies at night to retain heat which had been generated during the day by the sun warming the nest material.

No British observer has yet recorded any of these interesting and

that those provided as food may be unattractive for experimental purposes. Larger insects should be able to look after themselves. It will be found that some kinds will be set upon while others will be allowed to remain in the nest unmolested. It would be interesting to try to discover if any benefits are derived by the first and vice versa.

Other studies could include burrowing methods, from which it will be observed that ants burrow with their forelegs and kick out the unwanted soil, rather like a dog, unless most of the soil is removed which dig out earth with their jaws. The methods employed by *Formica rufa* when to incorporate extraneous vegetable matter such as pine needles and twigs into the nest structure are also worthy of observation. The cooperation between workers in carrying large objects is well-known, but the formicarium provides the ideal means of watching this and making notes.

Try the experiment of dropping in alien materials such as pieces of paper, bits of straw, non-toxicous nuts, flower-heads, and so on. Such materials are quickly removed and not allowed to remain on the surface of the nest in nature, or on which the ants treat as the surface of their "nest" in the formicarium.

In addition the workers can be seen continually resurfacing the external nest material. Conspicuous materials which do not blend with the normal nest material are removed for camouflage, but it is far from obvious why the ants keep redistributing the external nest covering. One might assume that in the wild it would be safer for the ants to recognize and return to the colony if it looked the same all the time. Here is material for detailed study, as it is still not known why ants do this.

If the temperature of the interior of the nest is taken it will be found to be several degrees higher than the temperature of the surroundings, though there is less difference in the colder winter months. Activity generates heat, so naturally in the summer when the activity of the ants is at its peak the nest will be hotter. The heat engendered by the sun's rays seems to have little bearing on the interior nest temperature.

It would be interesting to plot the temperature every day at the same time throughout the year, choosing a time of peak activity. It is easy to take the interior temperature of the formicarium by attaching a clinical thermometer to a pair of long forceps with wire or tape, and inserting it through one of the top holes. Leave it in for five minutes before noting the reading.

Contrary to popular belief, wood ants do not forage only by day but also hunt their prey at night. The type of prey captured does not vary much, only the number drops. It is possible to observe the foraging activity at night, studies could be made of this aspect of the ants' behaviour by inserting the same quantity of food insects or night as during the day, and watching the ants' reactions.

There are conflicting reports about food preferences. Insects preyed upon by ants in daylight are more numerous than those which are preyed upon at night. This seems strange in view of the attraction which ants have to immobile food dropped by picnickers.

It has been noted by many observers that the nearer the foraging ants are to their nest the more they are attracted to it. In the ants of the existing colony, which make frantic efforts to escape, and rebuild elsewhere with uncontaminated materials. One or two ants from another colony could be introduced experimentally to watch the colony's reactions which will usually be of interest to the student. Insects which

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The Illustrated LONDON NEWS FEBRUARY

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Of human bondage

by Deborah Thom

Slavery in the United States by William C. Hine. Jackdaw Publications Ltd., Jonathan Cape, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1E 1JF. £1.95.

Slavery in the United States is full of information and insights. It represents a careful summary of the latest thinking on a subject that continues to provoke great controversy. The compiler classifies the key questions. The documents are carefully selected and all that is missing is pictorial evidence, perhaps clichéd for American students but novel to those in Britain.

The kit brings home the horrors that slavery created. At the same time it manages to present the complacency that allows us to forget that the culture created for both sides survived long after the Act of Emancipation which ended, for most slaves, the formal legitimacy given to their condition.

The first four extracts provide a neat documentary explanation of the idea of a person as a piece of property with newspapers, posters, a bill of sale and an example of a state slave code. This is the most interesting. The laws apply about equally to slaves and to "free men of color". Both would, for example, suffer death if they struck a white twice or circulated incendiary literature; both would suffer fine and/or imprisonment if they taught a slave to read.

The questions draw students into the debate about the relationship between racism and slavery and this material provides examples of the

Continued from previous page.

never far from the nest this behaviour seems to be intensified. There is room for a great deal of research into this aspect of behaviour alone.

The life-cycle of *Formica rufa* takes a maximum of 37 days to complete, making it an ideal species for school or college study. The eggs take 13 days, at 23°C to 27°C to hatch. The larvae pupate eight days after hatching (at 30°C) and the imago takes from 14 to 16 days in the pupal stage to emerge.

The smallness of the workers makes them difficult to mark. Biologists have managed to stick numbers and letters to the abdomens of *Formica rufa* workers and to clip tiny metal rings round the petiole, or middle of the ant's bodies. However, this is hardly possible in a school or college laboratory.

The social organizations of ants provides probably the most fascinating example of order on the division of labour in nature, and the making, stocking and maintenance of a formicarium will provide endless opportunities of learning to make careful and accurate observations as well as a great deal of entertainment. Long before man had evolved techniques for community life and society, still unknown to many less civilized human tribes. There is much to learn about ants, and, for that, too.

John Citizen versus the stout advisers

by Joan Freeman

Advice available from specialist shops including NPEC bookshops or from Liquid Ltd., 1 Holmes Road, Linton, Northants. £3.60 post free. A game for two players.

It is not immediately apparent why this game is promoted as an instrument of educational psychology. If the abilities or personalities of the children playing it are to be judged by their performance, some sort of guide is needed to explain what their actions mean. Otherwise we might simply decide that some people are better at it than others. Perhaps the educational aspect is based on the same sort of idea as the one that learning Latin improves your thinking abilities.

Once the rules are grasped it is a simple and enjoyable game which can develop some intricate thought, not unlike chess. The playing pieces are of four sorts; one type labelled "citizens", and then the advisers—"priests", "lawyers", and "psychiatrists". It seems an unfair distribution.

The advisers are stout, but the poor thin citizens tend to fall over very easily. A sociologist must surely have had a hand in this design. As the game proceeds, the bits of wood on the board become social conflicts, but the artificiality of the situations leaves them at some remove from real life.

The confrontations of the players have not got a great deal of long-term holding power. Recognizing this, the author has also devised alternative games to revive flagging interest and a very complex version for puzzle fanatics. I find it quite impossible to make any acceptable judgment on any child's performance in this game. It is possible to describe a child as dour, obstructive or conformist without going to all this trouble. If the game is not a reliable and valid psychological tool, then it is just a game and if a child can be made to stay upright it is a good one.

Concern for the message

by Michael Clarke

The History of Western art Section 25. The Pre-Raphaelites. Three illustrated, £2.95 each. Impressionism and After. Remembered by Paul Moze. Film-strip, cassette, notes, £5.00. Visual Publications, 197 Kensington High Street, London W8.

It is standard practice to introduce the Pre-Raphaelites by referring to their German-Nazarene predecessors and by pointing to the revolution in taste that they are said to have brought about in English art. This general introduction to these three artists ignores the "filthy and makes little of the supposed change in taste."

This might be just as well. Full-blown Rabens and theoretically-ill Rembrandts were certainly rejected by all the other "filthy sloth" but can it truly be said that only Pre-Raphaelite paintings are formally influenced by the art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries? The revolution in taste, the Brotherhood was no more than a step with a steadily growing appreciation of early Renaissance art which they kept out of their point-of-view introduction recognizes.

If only the Introduction was similarly sharp in other matters. In comparing the Pre-Raphaelite concern for the message with contemporary artists across the channel it

Harmonic framework

by Andrew Peggie

Making Beat Music. Cassettes, workbooks and teachers' notes in four parts: Creating Rock; Playing the Blues; How to Write a Pop Number; Turning on to Progressive. Educational Productions Ltd, Bradford Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Each unit £4. Set of four £16.

Pop music is as profane and vital as folk music with the Duff methods, classical harmony, or even the curiously fashionable "music as visual art" approach.

The problem for the pupil, to whom popular music seems easy enough, is how to attain the level of instrumental competence needed for even the most primitive style. The problem for the classically trained teacher, or even an improvisationalist, are often lost in the seemingly overwhelming variety of the music, is how to preserve the pupil's natural curiosity with the music whilst equipping them with basic technique. In his cassette demonstration series, Making Beat Music, Roderick Paton has gone a long way towards solving these problems.

The series is designed to be used over a wide age range (11 to 18), class size and for a low price span (one cassette pack with easily lost progressive exercises of the techniques used in beat music, with the emphasis on improvisation within a harmonic framework. "Creating Rock" deals with the basics: drum beats and simple melodic improvisation over static chords, all ably demonstrated with other facilities for the students to participate and to work on their own.

"Playing the Blues" deals with three-chord progressions and simple jazz phrases. "How to Write a Pop Number" concentrates on melodic and harmonic invention and the organization of a song through title

is sold about the words. "on to Progressive" introduces a new harmonic vocabulary, electronic procedures and organization of abstract material.

The two latter packs are school material. Later moving to the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham last week, as well as playing at home use.

The format in each case is a tape of verbal instructions, a cassette of the same material, and a workbook. The latter is not a conventional textbook but a series of exercises, some of which are more advanced projects and some could have been more profitably devoted to longer but more varied student improvisation by far the most valuable parts of the series.

Associated workbooks (three each tape) are attractively laid out and concentrate on the musical aspects of the music, although the teacher is not explained. The open-plan organization means that the correspondence between the cassette and workbook is not always clear.

Mr Paton has obviously thought very carefully about how to make the series as flexible as possible and indeed this is one of its virtues. Flexibility, however, is best served by minimizing definition and explanation, thus freeing the teacher to adapt. This means that the most essential verbal instruction and repeated printed synopses will be necessary.

The teachers' notes are excellent in other ways, containing suggestions for alternative classroom instruments, lists of records, and persuasive essays on the relevance of beat music in the classroom. Making Beat Music is a significant addition to the teacher's materials of the music room as well as to the teacher's own kit with as much sense of direction and achievement as their pupils.

Elementary woodwork in Junior, Infant and nursery classes can be introduced to schools with space problems with the help of a Mastercraft workbook which can be folded flat for storage.

The Multipack Packaway bench is 27 inches long, 8 inches wide and 16 inches high when assembled. There is a two-way, steel vice in the end of the bench which is supplied with a box of wood joints, a pack of nails and some sandpaper. The Multipack Packaway bench costs around £19 including VAT, postage and packing.

Further information may be obtained from Bradford Tinsler Products Ltd, House 111 Works, New Works Road, Low Moor, Bradford.

Fish out of the water

by O. F. G. Kilgour

Fish File, Pack 1, Home Economics. Produced and distributed for the Fish Authority by Forbes Publications Ltd, Hurric House, Queensway, London W2 1JF.

The pack contained in a box consists of a booklet of teacher's background notes, 10 recipe cards, 30 student information sheets, and two worksheets. In the 20-page booklet of the teacher's background notes, the anonymous writer includes a lot of useful information about sea fish including suggestions on how to use the pack, identifying and buying fish, and the food value of fish.

There are also some interesting suggestions for projects, and a clear and concise, with good illustrations, tables and summaries, and the text is marked throughout and the ST system adopted. The "wrongly" indicates the "microgram" and the "summary" states that fresh fish should be kept in a cool, moist atmosphere, without refrigeration, in what



Paints, Pelmanism and practice with figures

GILLIAN THOMAS looks at new classroom aids

All sorts of interesting new classroom items were on display at the South Toy and Hobby Fair at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham last week, as well as playing at home use.

The format in each case is a tape of verbal instructions, a cassette of the same material, and a workbook. The latter is not a conventional textbook but a series of exercises, some of which are more advanced projects and some could have been more profitably devoted to longer but more varied student improvisation by far the most valuable parts of the series.

Associated workbooks (three each tape) are attractively laid out and concentrate on the musical aspects of the music, although the teacher is not explained. The open-plan organization means that the correspondence between the cassette and workbook is not always clear.

Mr Paton has obviously thought very carefully about how to make the series as flexible as possible and indeed this is one of its virtues. Flexibility, however, is best served by minimizing definition and explanation, thus freeing the teacher to adapt. This means that the most essential verbal instruction and repeated printed synopses will be necessary.

The teachers' notes are excellent in other ways, containing suggestions for alternative classroom instruments, lists of records, and persuasive essays on the relevance of beat music in the classroom. Making Beat Music is a significant addition to the teacher's materials of the music room as well as to the teacher's own kit with as much sense of direction and achievement as their pupils.

Conversational French

by Brian Hill

Something to Talk About by Colin Aslin. Cambridge University Press, 200 East Road, London NW1, £1.2 plus VAT.

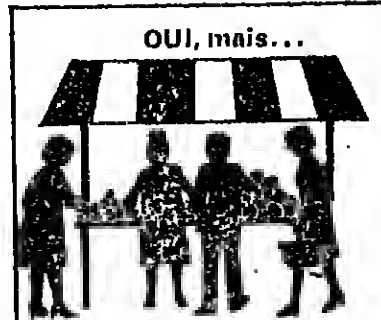
Teachers who need flexibility will appreciate this new resource, designed along the lines of the Longman's French packs. The first pack, Something to Talk About features "Transport" in French and covers road, rail, air and sea, but not rivers and canals. No one range or language level is suggested. The authors suggest the materials can be used effectively in different ways.

The main aim is to provide an authentic basis for conversation practice in classes, small groups or pairs. The packs draw on themes which are likely to crop up in the examination. Ideas for lesson plans are also included.

There are seven activities with which the teacher to decide how to use them and how they can be integrated into class work. They range from role-play to the use of the audio-tapes, from lower down to the school.

The pack comprises a teacher's handbook, a cassette, three workbooks and a 5 inch audio tape. The workbooks are made of card and are easy to use. The first activity uses a combination of cassette and tape. The teacher is asked to prepare a conversation about transport vocabulary and for the pupils to help for other forms of transport. The tape carries a conversation about a journey, with a number of useful suggestions for the teacher's use.

Another activity brings in Sylvie and Pierre trying to sort out the problem her friend is having in getting to her "surprise party". The workbook is meant to give visual support and to help comprehension. The two games are developed from a rather stilted conversation about taking a driving test. Lots of detailed information will have to go into the use of these with classes, but if the time can be found the vocabulary is well chosen.



JOUR DE MARCHÉ Danger de piétons ROULEZ AVEC PRUDENCE

Teachers who need flexibility will appreciate this new resource, designed along the lines of the Longman's French packs.

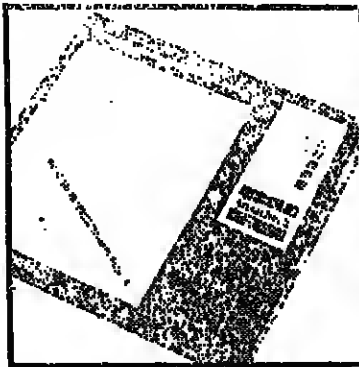
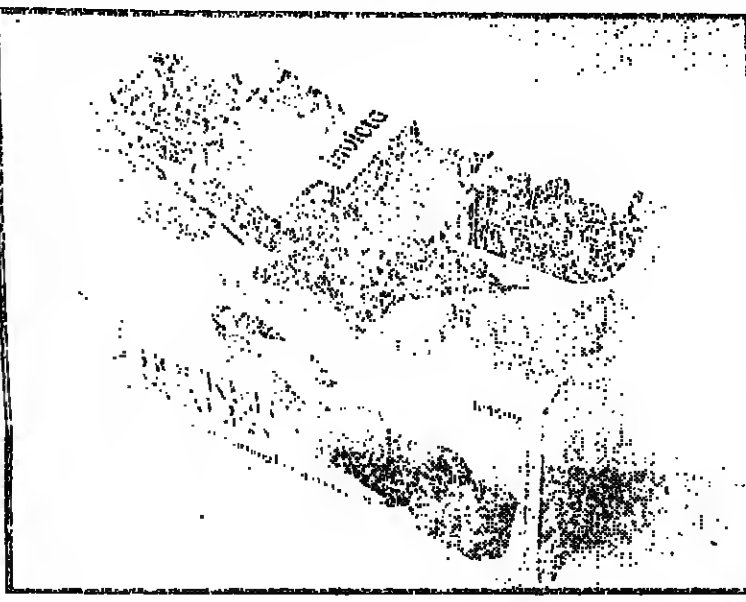
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From top: Inviting Rucker Scales, Wells Kels's Anascheek maths unit, and the Nature Trail pack from Aifix.

right or not. The advantage over an ordinary calculator is that they cannot get the correct answer until they work it out for themselves. The initial price will be around £12.

Kalkman, who has been selling maths aids abroad for ten years, are introducing the aids here. Selling for around £6, each set contains

Double feature

by Christopher Griffin-Baule

Making a Film or Television Programme. Illustrations in pictures. Educational Productions Ltd, Bradford Road, East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorks. £3.50.

What is the function of a filmstrip? Is it to communicate something visually that cannot be conveyed equally well in some other way? Or is it simply to provide a sequence of illustrations in pictures of a particular subject?

Making a Film or Television Programme cannot claim anything more than the latter, if that. Its American origins, which display its supplement the basic outline of film making provided in the notes, which have been rewritten for English publication. This outline is useful as a simple description of a process although the selection of detail sometimes seems arbitrary. But the fullness of the images betrays the inherent interest of the subject.

One problem is the vagueness about what the filmstrip is trying to do. The first frames show a film projector and a cinema, the scale of the operation seems appropriate to a filmstrip feature. The fictional story involving of actors and settings—as a film rather than an electronically produced television programme. A video studio with its electronic equipment and banks of monitors might have produced more arresting images that we see here.

The final frame illustrates a programme on screen, but it is strange to follow such an example through production. There is already plenty of material about the media, most of it wider in scope and better produced than this filmstrip.

Concord Films Council, NACTON, nr IPSWICH, SUFFOLK (0473 74012)

Further information: CADMEAN TRUST, 5 FITZGERALD AVE, LONDON, W14 0SY

Dimensional view

A company has been formed to develop and produce holograms and holographic products. Holographic Developments Ltd, 15 principal field of activity is to be with multi-plexed holograms, which may be viewed using ordinary light instead of the coherent light usually necessary. The holograms are claimed to be completely three-dimensional and will include movement of the subjects.

Information from Holographic Developments Ltd, "St. Crispin's Hill, London SE10.

Transfer variations

A variation on standard transfer lettering has been introduced by 3M. Image Transfer graphic material has a light-sensitive coating on which images can be made with ultra violet light.

The sheet has to be developed and washed, using simple equipment, and then the images can be transferred on to various types of surface using a stylus. The company says the process can even be used for screened half-tone pictures.

Image Transfer images are said to be heat resistant and stable, and to adhere to surfaces such as board, paper, polyester, acrylic, glass and plastic. The material is available in opaque black and white.

Information from 3M, 380 Harrow Road, London, W9.

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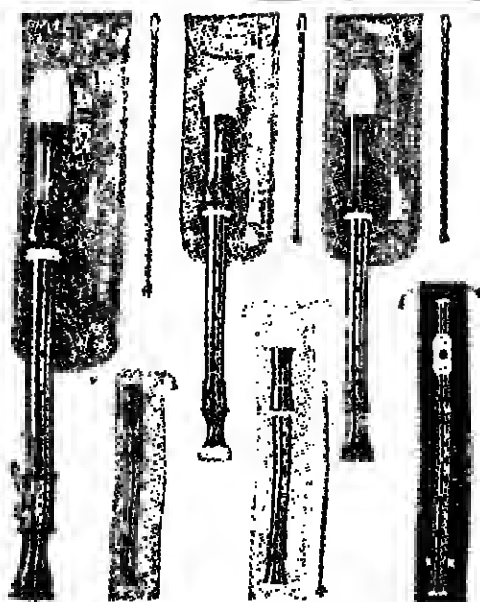
Details from Plastic Engineers Ltd, Treofort Industrial Estate, Pontypridd, Glamorgan.

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Advertisement for 'JASON AND THE GOLDEN FLEECE' at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1, Wednesday, March 9th 1977 at 7.30 p.m. with Roy Hudd as the Centaur.

SACRED AND SECULAR

Christopher Dearnley reviews vocal music

The great quantity of vocal music presented for review indicates that music publishing is a flourishing industry. Experience of failed attempts to obtain music that has proved its worth and usefulness often suggests otherwise.

Yet an enterprising music director, backed by generous funds, could have a field day selecting from recent publications of vocal music. Whether in sheet or volume format there is music for all demands of classroom and choral groups. There is a need to resist the laborious process of copying (by hand, of course) pieces that are out of print when there is so much to choose from in current catalogues.

In the sphere of sacred music the standard is set by the RSCM's Festival Service Book 2 'The City, Described as "a meditation in words and music", this comprehensive collection is truly encyclopaedic in outlook and content. Excellent value too (Royal School of Church Music, Croydon; £1.60 or 80p for members). On a different plane is a selection of 60 "up-to-date hymns and religious songs for primary schools" - Sing it in the morning (Nelson, £2.25 full music, 35p words only).

Spirituels Reborn skilfully presents 35 examples of this popular form of sacred folk music (Cambridge University Press, £3.75 cover).

dition, £1 melody and guitar edition). The melody's counterpart, the carol, is well served by 'The Apple Tree' - 46 Christmas pieces of proven quality culled from the Cambridge Hymnal (also CUP, £1.80).

The choice is just as wide in collections of secular music. Okki-tokki-maga sets out clearly and attractively 55 "action songs" for young children (A and C Black, £2.25). Three books of Rounds (or Canons) of all kinds from "3 Blind Mice" onwards are available from Robertson Publications, Wendover, Bucks: Rounds for Everyone (£1.20), Around the Year in Rounds (£1.20), Round America (75p), Six and Bones is a handsome publication of folk songs chosen for group singing, easy to learn and enjoyable (Oxford University Press, £2.45 piano edition, 60p melody edition). That the tradition still thrives is shown by Adam and the Beasts, a collection of Alanis Claviers original songs in folk idiom (Paber and Faber, £1.50).

For stage performances there is something for just about every need. The Barnstormers: a musical play for 2 to 12-year-olds lasting 40 minutes, by Morrin Lines and Batty Roe (Thames Publishing, 14 Barley Road, London W10, £1). Rooster Rog by Michael Hurd, in the pop cantata genre, lasting 13 minutes (Novello, 50p). Three Instant Operas for children by Ste-

phen Oliver, each about 8-10 minutes (Novello, £1.35). Cinderella in Salerno: an opera for schools based on Rossini's La Cenerentola by William Beaumont and Raymond Walker, 85 minutes (Novello, £1.50). Bang: an original opera "for young people" by David Grant and Joe Butler, 60 minutes (Oxford University Press, £4.75).

Choral directors could make up many programmes from a batch of sheet music, from which these are just a few examples. The King's Daughter (SA and piano) - a simple and moving song by Haydn (Novello, £1.50). Of a Feather - five songs for high and low voices with piano by Ernst Bacon (Novello, 60p). A sparrow rose (SA unaccompanied) by Philip Lane (Banks, York, 7p). Do-Dee (SATB unaccompanied) - Patchell arranged by Wurd Gardner in homage to you (Banks, 8p).

From Robertson Publications of Wendover, Bucks, come two parts and piano - 'The Reason' - simple and effective (10p) for three parts unaccompanied - 'They crucified my Lord' - spiritual arrangement (10p) for unaccompanied SATB - 'Frog went a courting' - light-hearted arrangement with the voice parts lying in a comfortable range for school choirs (14p). Also two useful anthems for SATB and organ: Oh, what sorrow - an extract from 'What Mater' by the eighteenth century Spanish composer Gaspar (15p). Behold, I make of things new - a new anthem by Bernard Rose, expertly written and rewarding to sing (15p).

INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVES

By Robin Maconie



Lindsay Peck with members of the Friary Folk Group, Five Cousins Group and pupils of St Anthony's School, Clevedon, composers and performers of the LP "Ranily from Dream".

Let us now praise Individual Initiatives. The Rev Norman Warren has written an opera, for words by Elspeth Stephenson, for his young parishioners at Leamington Spa. Not only that, he has been bold enough to publish it, and at a price (60p) that puts the established publishing business to shame.

Mr Warren's flock should be proud to have a vicar whose sense of vocation extends to the composition of such a charming rural morality; the publication of Mary Jones, however, is an act of faith in community culture that deserves all our admiration.

The story is set in late eighteenth-century Wales; and tells, with classic unsophistication, of a young girl's determination to learn to read, and her efforts to save up to buy a Bible. There are no gimmicks, no technical dreamscapes. Words and music both express a

totally disarming, unadorned conviction. Scored for piano, it would sound especially effective. Imagine, played on an old-fashioned monium with acoustic guitar giving some rhythm support, and there are places as well where tin whistles and simple tambour could be added with advantage. Some care in choosing instruments is always advisable in amateur productions, since much of the music's character may be lost or neutralized if only a piano is used.

Nowadays, when schools generally have a large reserve of simple instruments, it should be possible to vary the standard accompaniment, and the music of Mary Jones should be well within the reach of some young players.

But this is not to say that the piece is only suitable for amateurs, the same of requiring only enthusiasm and a not-much skill. Simple music is as difficult to perform with justice as complicated music; the care taken by a composer such as Mr Warren, and the courage shown in having committed Mary Jones to print, deserve a simple measure of respect. It is a simple music in performance, but it would like to think that the piece would attract serious attention from local radio or television. Enterprise of this kind not only deserves encouragement: on such occasions as this, and on the seriousness with which we treat them, our local cultural livelihood is judged. What is worth doing is worth doing well.

Music printing is an expensive business, and one important factor, no doubt, in the low publication cost of Mary Jones is that the music is reproduced in clear manuscript. It is worth noting, then, that scores can be printed and published on local initiatives at much less cost than an established publisher could manage. Local production centres, therefore, in today's economic situation; the story of the three talents is not only a tale for the well-off.

My other success story comes from Clevedon, in Avon. Lindsay Peck, a young music teacher, taught a group of 10 to 13-year-olds the guitar. "They worked with enthusiasm for six months," she writes, "but having mastered the guitar to their own satisfaction, the inevitable boredom began to set in."

"It was thought that the composition unit creation of a long playing record could provide the stimulus needed for continued interest; it was also hoped to raise money for charity by sales. Therefore the children were asked to compose thoughtful songs as an Easter holiday activity. When then recommended in the middle of May each child played and sang to me on a tape machine. No music was ever written down. The most interesting songs were finally selected for inclusion on the record."

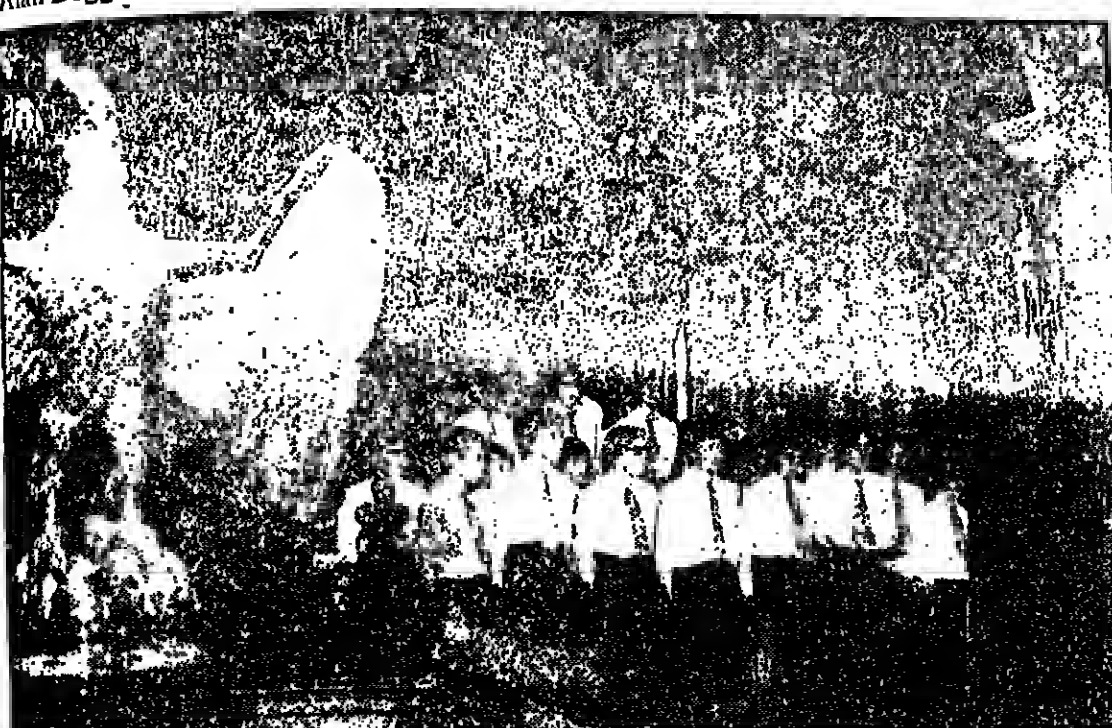
There is no doubt the venture has succeeded. At a total cost of about £600 for 500 pressings, which cost might have been less, says Miss Peck, had they had more experience, it might appear beyond the reach of most local music clubs. But the real value of the exercise lies not in whether or not the tapes can be recouped, but in the songs those children have been able to produce, and the precedent that comparatively modest expenditure has set.

None of the songs was written down. Having been thought out, they were recorded, and on the basis of the first recordings, they were worked on and improved. Many of the songs, notably those by Miss Peck herself, have a country-western feel, with lyrics tending to a rather abstracted mysticism. Those written by the children tend to be much more concrete: "I'm just a nut case required love of Mother the butcher for timid Jean, the silent seamstress of 30 springlines, and a cheeky number by Robert and Jane Trevis which begins: "I'm just a born, born traveller/With a knapsack on my back/And all I've got is my doggie/And he's a mongrel - at that."

A possible drawback of the record is

FROM JASON AND JOSEPH TO BYRD AND BRITTEN

Alan Doggett, director of the London Boy Singers talks to Hilary Finch



The London Boy Singers rehearsing in Norwich Cathedral with Alan Doggett.

It all began in 1961. Benjamin Britten decided that he would like a boys' choir to sing at the Aldeburgh Festival. In 1962 he asked John Andrews, director of the Finchley Children's Music Group, if he could help.

In just that year boys of eight to 12 at local schools were invited to audition for the Finchley Boys' Choir. And in September, about 12 turned up. In December, they are a concert at the Grosvenor Chapel, with Peter Pears and Ingeborg Holst - who hit on a name for them, "The London Boy Singers," and the name stuck.

Now there are 60 boys, aged from nine to 19. Their headquarters is at St Barnabas Church, Kensington; they have sung Jesus Christ Superstar and they have sung to the Pope; they have travelled all over Britain and to Holland, Germany, Denmark, Italy and France; they sing hymns about the Blessed Virgin and songs about Barbapapa.

Alan Doggett became unorthodox director in 1971, and director in February 1974 - the most important thing I've ever done in my life. He started in his first musical instrument, the organ, when he was 18. It was not until he was 28 that he had his first job as a musician.

He has had less active musical experience than many of his boys. Yet he has a broad sense of what it is that choirs and their audiences want and need, and what

his singers expect of him and of themselves. Above all, he seems to know just what to do in fulfil these needs, to realize the ideas he talks about so cogently.

The London Boy Singers draws its members from all types of social background and school; a circular letter is sent once a year to all primary schools in London. Boys from public schools in Putney, Harrow, East End comprehensive, Christians with Muslims; the breadth of repertoire and the entirely independent nature of the choir make it unique in this respect.

"I think a choir is like a vineyard," says Alan Doggett. "Each produces its own sound, and though one may say the same thing to the LBS as to cathedral choristers, the sound will be different." He adds: "Ours is the modified playground voice."

"Choir work is never allowed to get in the way of school work - rehearsals are held at weekends only in the holidays. Alan Doggett sees the choir's discipline and intensive rehearsals, its opportunities for professional performances and its travel abroad as a valuable contribution to the type of musical education provided in schools. Moreover, unlike many spurious and other school activities, singing is something in which a boy can compete equally with adults; and a professional orchestra have absolutely equal status - and are judged by the same standards.

continued from opposite page

In the absence of a local theme with which the participants could readily identify, the subject is probably too wide and diffuse for the moral point of view. The standard of production is high; the idea behind the enterprise is admirable and fully justified, and there is a lot of very good material in evidence, which should not have been otherwise brought to light.

The practical example set by Lindsay Peck and her young friends at school and local groups as an important and logical extension of local broadcasting can play an important supporting role, in providing a practical example and publicizing the local dimension, however, is all-important.

Mary Jones, a musical play for young children, music by Norman Warren, words by Elspeth Stephenson, published by The Maplewell Press, 49 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa, at 60p.

Ranily from Dream, seventeen songs written and performed by members of the Friary Folk Group, Clevedon, and their musical director, Lindsay Peck, is available from the Director, Mrs Martin Appleby, 37 The Avenue, Clevedon, Notts, at £2.75. All profits from sales of the record will be donated to charity.

manent base and is continually required to sing in unfamiliar surroundings, a boy's reactions to a strange setting and to being with others is well and truly tested out.

After any time from three months to a year, as vacancies occur in the concert choir, he may be asked to move up - and he will be tutored in live sessions (three times a week at the same time in different places) and then, after tea, will take part in the final practice. The boys' voices are trained throughout their range so that they move down the choir's buses rather than stop singing when their voices break.

In addition to the weekly rehearsal there are three holiday courses a year - and then, of course, the travel abroad - a social and musical experience which must be unique for almost all members of the choir. Some local authorities will help with grants (the choir is now a registered LEA youth organization). Funds are also raised by bazaars, sponsored walks, and a small annual subscription - no boy is ever barred from going abroad for financial reasons. Paradoxically, it is becoming increasingly easy to go abroad than it is to tour in Britain. Plans for a tour of the United States in 1978 are further advanced than plans for a West country tour in 1977.

On March 9, in Westminster Central Hall, the choir will be taking part in Alan Doggett's pop extravaganza Jason and the Golden Fleece. He began to be involved in pop cantatas (like Joseph) while teaching at St Paul's Junior School, in order "to involve his 'people'". Children from all LEA schools have been invited to take part in Jason and are being auditioned for parts in the chorus, as organists, harpists, goddesses, kings - and Roy Hudd is to be the centaur.

A work that (à la Orff) is based on simple ostinati, and can be used in a classroom with minimum resources, is being expanded into a massive pageant-cantata, with different schools doing different scenes. "Berlioz on the cheap", says Alan Doggett.

From Jason and Joseph to Byrd and Britten, everything the LBS sing is from memory, in whatever language and from whatever period - and always with their characteristic "confidential" sound, with a remarkable sense of slow-manship and with confidence and masculinity. It seems superfluous at this stage, even to mention words like discipline and dedication.

At their Christmas concert, half the boys had a stomach bug they had caught in France, but bravely sang on, green-faced, until, one after the other, they crept off the stage rather like the players in Haydn's Farewell Symphony. The next day their director was in bed with the flu. I remembered something he once said to me: "We're a cooperative. I expect as much of myself as of the boys."

Relaxing with the Volcan guard in Rouze.

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READING WITH MUSIC

By Margareta Hirtfree

"Music has a beneficial effect on mind and body. It stimulates the metabolism and muscular energy, accelerates breathing, affects the pulse rate and blood pressure, it enlarges consciousness and increases motivation. Music can be the means of intellectual and emotional growth, and learning, which is significant and joyful."

I had read it all during a one-year music course, and also conducted an investigation, which indicated that music, especially rhythm, can help children to remember words and phrases.

Here I was, back in the classroom with 33 mixed infants, aged about five years, some of whom had not yet been given their first reading book, and curious to find out if it is possible to teach reading more successfully with music than without.

"m" is a good letter to start with, big and easily recognized as "mummy's letter". With two rooms and a chimney to the left, I drew it as a pictograph in the top corner of a big sheet of paper, put a cooker in the room to the left, a bed in the other room, and Mummy by the door, holding the baby, waving goodbye to the Dad, mate, friend or whoever would fit the role of departing cohabitant in the children's imaginations.

In the opposite top corner I put a frame, ready for a picture of Mary or Michael, and underneath I wrote in large letters: My mummy says "no", My mummy says "maybe", My mummy says "yes".

I told the story of Mummy, who lived in a house with two rooms. We drew the shape of it "in the air", first going "down the chimney" and taking care not to leave any "cracks in the walls" between the rooms.

I told the children of the hot day, when the children asked for ice cream, and Mummy said "No, not yet", how they later asked again and had a slightly more hopeful answer, and how at last, at tea-time—ice cream!

I then surprised the children by singing the lines, while gliding my finger under the words, and tapping the rhythm after each line. The children soon joined in the rhythm tapping, and then the singing.

We looked for Mummy's letter in the text, and "tasted" them as we sang the words slowly, eyes closed: mummy, maybe and mummy.

We sang mummy, and the children could feel the "motors" vibrating inside by putting their

hands round their throats. They had some fun finding out where the sound comes out, and stopping it by pinching their noses. We patrolled an imaginary "m" and furnished it with cut-out pictures. Mummy offered to draw a self-portrait for the frame, and when I wrote his name under it we noticed that mummy M looks like two mountain tops. Simon announced that he had Mummy's letter inside his name, and so had Tim, at the end.

Next day we sang the Mummy song again, looking at the words on the charting scheme. The children remembered the words well. Perhaps the tapped rhythms at the end of the lines had served as subconscious repetitions. Had I not read somewhere that it is easier to remember what is sung than what is said?

Jenny offered to sing Mummy's part: "no", "maybe" and "yes". We divided into three groups to clap the rhythms after the three lines. We tried "echo" singing; I sang a line at a time, the children repeated each one. It seemed as if

the in-sound helped the children to hear the notes "inside their heads" and sing reasonably in tune. And so we sang our way through the songs, about sand in sandwiches by the sea, comforting Nanny offering naps, falling, flapping and Edging Flaps, and kippers, kept in kipperboxes. We walked like dumpy, dirty dinosaurs and splashed in puddles like real Bobby. (Many of the songs could be dramatized and used for Music and Movement.)

Comments and reactions varied. "This one is brilliant" from Simon made me feel it was all worth while writing a new song. I made colour-coded cards, upon which were the words of the songs, and the children sorted them into lines and songs, and read or sang them to one another.

The songs on the walls were useful for spelling reference. "Really? Oh, yes, in the bedtime song," "Birthday? Find it in Yvonne's song." I used the songs for "missing words" cards and sentence making. Deborah found that the "sleepy song" was easy to play on the xylophone and recorder.

Now, at the end of the year, it is hard to assess the influence music has had on the children's reading development, but it seems to have helped especially the slow readers. The children, who came in from the reception class last September without the comfort of a reading book, are now at the end of the year enjoying their fifth book.

The clear pronunciation, which is necessary for singing, has improved both the children's speech and spelling. The children have learnt to notice the sequences of letters during the short sessions of studying the songs, and the many repetitions in the text have helped memorization.

The words of the songs have consolidated and widened the vocabulary of the reading scheme. The disciplines of melody, tempo and rhythm have, I think, sharpened the children's listening power and self-control. And, perhaps most important of all, the enjoyment and inspiration of singing, rhythm-tapping and movement has given the important incentive to learn—it is fun to do, and therefore successful.

Margareta Hirtfree teaches at Christ Church Infant School, New Mahlen, Sucrep.

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INVOLVING THE PRIVATE TEACHER

By Eta Cohen

Standards in musical education in schools have developed a great deal in this country in the past 40 years. Authorities acknowledge its value to society and its importance in improving the quality of life for everyone.

Participation in active music making helps to channel the energies of youth and besides being a possible antidote to vandalism and violence, it provides the means for filling leisure time with one of the most rewarding and stimulating hobbies. Enjoyment in playing and also in listening can extend right through to old age and at this time of life can provide great solace.

All in all, the case for examining methods of improving musical knowledge and progress is vital and it is important that the best ways of organising instrumental teaching are reached as economically as possible.

Formerly, music was given only a small place on the timetable and included mainly class singing, theory and possibly some time on musical appreciation. Much more attention is now given to the teaching of orchestral instruments culminating in the formation of many youth orchestras.

It has been argued that every child has musical potential—but it is important to kindle interest in the early stages, nurture and mature it, and then steer the child through all stages of childhood and adolescence. There is no valid reason why a large percentage of all children should not become moderately proficient in playing some instrument, with great benefit ultimately to both the child and the state.

There are admirable schemes for teaching instruments in schools. The teaching is usually in groups, and instruments too piano, which is often taught privately. In many towns, talented children are given the opportunity to have individual lessons at a music centre or junior music school at a minimal cost.

they teach, and if well established, can provide a comfortable studio and adequate equipment—a good piano, records, tape recorder, music, books etc. Not all schools can provide this.

What is more important, they can give individual attention and tuition over a long period, which is not interrupted by a change of school and they can give lessons of adequate length, suited to the needs of each pupil.

The private teacher also has quite a long involvement with parents who usually, in the case of young children, bring them to the lessons and supervise the practising. This puts the relationship on a very personal level which is conducive to greater progress.

Besides this, the teacher is personally responsible for the child's achievements. She has her reputation to consider and as she has no shared security with a salary, her efforts to see that her pupils' progress compares favourably with that of other teachers.

The provision of music centres, junior music schools and similar institutions cannot always provide a substitute for such individual tuition, though facilities that can be invaluable.

It seems reasonable to expect that local authorities should give awards for children to study with private teachers in their own studios so that the teachers could maintain their freedom and independence. At the same time, pupils should be allowed to join in with any other activities of a music centre (orchestra, chamber music, choir etc.).

The cost of small subsidies are minimal when compared to the salaries of full-time staff or the expense of bringing part-time teachers long distances to the centres. Pupils could have the best of both worlds and teachers would have greater financial security. There would be a real feeling of cooperation between the teachers and the authorities in the mutual benefit of all.

The next step would then be to encourage cooperation between private teachers and the local schools. There is a growing feeling that instrumental and vocal proficiency should be rewarded. A music expert is just as important as a knowledge of science or languages. Once this fact is universally recognized the whole climate of opinion among teachers and parents would change radically.

Head teachers would become more aware of the value of good instrumental teaching for their pupils and would be more sympathetic about allowing children to attend lessons at a teacher's own studio, during

school time. Better still, instrumental work would be geared to the school timetable and arrangements made for a child to practise at school or have homework time allocated for practising. There seems to reason why children who wish to specialise in music should not be specially streamed and music given the same status as other subjects.

The problems of the outstandingly talented children have been partly solved by the formation of special residential music schools, but these are mainly provided for those who are totally committed to a musical career of an early age—a small minority. In addition, they are expensive to maintain, so can only assist children of those parents who have the money to pay themselves or the backing of a local or national authority.

In the latter case, an administrator would have to decide whether to spend money on one potentially talented child or the same amount on at least two others who might be able to receive training which is as good locally, assuming there is a reputable private teacher in the area and the aforementioned cooperation between advisers and head teachers.

It is important to realize that special music schools have been initially well taught by private teachers, otherwise their talent might not have been recognized. If the outstanding are to be given special privileges then all young children should be given the same chance to prove their ability.

Alternatively, there is a case for those who wish to keep their options open without committing themselves to a musical career too soon and enjoy a broader educational outlook and more varied social contacts, while living at home and attending a local school but still specializing in musical performance. This is where the good private teacher can be such an asset.

I would hope that if music advisers were able to unite with private teachers there could only be benefit to all. What could be more exciting than the prospect of ever increasing numbers of young people being involved in making music at all levels?

ETA COHEN is warden of the private teachers section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

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STEEL BAND BLUES

James Cummings on how not to start a steel band in a school

We were delighted, but steel band instruments had arrived. The pupils were justling and vying with each other for a view. They were so anxious to play that they began testing the notes with their fists, with rulers, and almost anything they could find. Little did we realize that those were not just metal drums, but metal drums which by a series of processes had been transformed into highly sensitive musical instruments.

Ours was a standard set of instruments usually called "pans". It comprised five bass, two second, two guitar, two ping pong. In spite of their designation, they were expanded to alto, tenor and soprano. Some schools enlarge their set to include the cellos, which is a group of three drums played by one person.

The five bass have two octave range. The double second pans have two octave range and are used for chords, harmony or counter-melody. The guitar pans have 16 notes with a deep mellow sound, and are mainly used for playing chords. The ping pong are the soprano pans and have a deep octave range. All are tuned to British standard.

The head of the music teacher had for a long time wanted to start a steel band in the school because about 30 per cent of our pupils were West Indian. It was on the advice of one of our West Indian parents, who was active in the parents' association, that we were able to get on to someone who could make these remarkable instruments.

We had many lessons to learn, but we did not think we had to learn them the hard way. We thought we could rely on the good parent, being West Indian himself, to be knowledgeable about steel bands. We later realized that all West Indians are not knowledgeable about them. That those who are, may not necessarily be able to play, that those who could play may not necessarily be able to teach, and worst of all, those who are able to play and teach are not able to make instruments.

Our next step, having had our instruments, was to find a tutor. The instrument producer did not have time to teach, and for several weeks our instruments laid there while we looked and hoped and almost prayed that somebody would tell somebody that we needed a tutor. We were not aware that most of our problems could have been solved, or would have been solved, had we consulted our music inspector, after talking to our well-meaning and enthusiastic West Indian parent.

At last our tutor arrived. Someone along the grapevine he had learned that we had a delivery of a set of steel band instruments. After his meeting with the music teacher we got to know that he had not been sent by anyone, but that he had heard schools were introducing steel band music, and he had been going from school to school offering his services. He looked at the instruments, found they were out of tune and offered to tune them at what we thought was an exorbitant price. We, therefore, thought that the person who produced them should tune them again before they had not been used.

When we eventually got on to the producer he claimed, perhaps justifiably, that he had delivered them in good order and that it was probable they were put out of tune either by moving them around or by the indiscriminate use made of them by the children in the absence of supervision. We decided we had gone too far to turn back. The head therefore authorized payment to the producer for tuning them.

There seemed to have been some disagreement between the tutor and the producer about the layout of the notes on the instruments and the quality of the pitch. Later we were informed that a standardized pattern had been worked out with Steel Band Tutors Association. Indeed, we did not even know prospective tutors were assessed before being allowed to teach in schools.

In spite of our initial difficulties we were off. The music teacher had difficulty in finding the number of eager little bands willing to try themselves at steel band music. Before the children of the West Indian community should be given priority as this was their music. Our West Indian parent,

who was still showing interest, thought that some of the West Indian children should be selected. He wanted to show the "noise" were just like any other instrument and that children of West Indian parentage did not necessarily have attributes that made them better at playing.

The tutor invited in love each group of children for an indefinite period until they learned what he wanted them to. From our experience, however, we knew that for any lesson the concentration of the children would only last for about 30 to 40 minutes. It took some heated arguments to clarify this but, it was finally agreed that he should have eight children of a time, five on the instruments and three taking turns for 40 minutes.

Now that all arrangements had been settled we looked forward to being playing tunica at assembly and in public as several other schools were doing. It was disappointing to find that the children were kept playing chords and changing places on the instruments with each other, especially as we were being offered opportunities to go on television and to play at popular functions. It did not dawn on us at the time that merely having a repertoire of a few tunes was not the best way for the children to broaden their knowledge of the potential of the instruments. We must have been more concerned about our image.

The music teacher decided to attend a steel band class in order to be able to teach the children on the days when the tutor was away. After her few attendances, she realized that the way she was being taught was not the same method used by the tutor in our school and that the instruments used in her class were different in sound and in layout.

When the tutor learned that our music teacher had been attending steel band classes there soon became a series of difficulties between them which became harassing for the pupils. Eventually the head mediated and established a working relationship between them. It was agreed that the tutor would give the lessons and the music teacher would ensure discipline and the proper use of the instruments.

Everything was now plain sailing, the pupils were enthusiastic, the tutor was keen, the music teacher was pleased. More and more we were becoming affected by the ideologies that welcomed us to school. The "steel band children" always arrived early to practise. They seemed to have acquired a new confidence. As the tunes floated out to the grounds, we hummed, sang, smiled and walked gaily into school.

However, the chairman of the parents' association was over-zealous. He was also chairman of a local body which organized fund-raising functions for charities. This kindly gentleman wanted the band to play at one of these functions and the tutor had objected. He did not think they were sufficiently proficient but we thought they were reasonably good. He also complained that the children were being exploited and that the chairman should engage a professional band.

The head who had tactfully left the tutor and the music teacher to get on together, was in a strong position to mediate again. He listened to the tutor's arguments one of which was demonstrated. The head was invited to observe the pupils playing one of their pieces, and afterwards the tutor explained. The head noted they were striking the instruments with a thud. This the tutor explained was because the pupils had not been playing long enough to have the arm muscles necessary to make rhythmic sound. Steel band notes are difficult to sustain.

Our tutor was not a particularly musical person, but he seemed to have understood the sentiment of the tutor. On the other hand, he is clear so he inquired what the professional fee would be. He then proposed that the chairman should school's fund and that the tutor be paid for conducting the band on that occasion.

He also laid down firm guidelines for the future. All engagements were to be considered by the music teacher and the band in consultation with him. "Undeniable"

agreements were to be closely scrutinized and those engagements that made the pupils more aware of the nature of their community were to be given preference. Among these were entertainment for the handicapped, the elderly, schools, church services and similar social groupings.

Lots of spin-offs from our steel band are being discussed. The music teacher wants to combine the band with other instruments, as well as to use them with the choir.

The teacher responsible for drama wants the band to back-up a Caribbean dance group. The deputy head is interested in a multi-racial project on the Caribbean. We have had a suggestion for a twinning scheme which has a steel band. We do not know what crises or pitfalls will follow these grand ideas, but one thing we certainly know is that to start a steel band in a school,



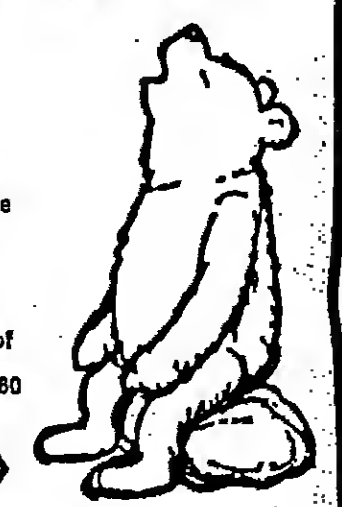
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MIDDLE continued from page 32

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SECONDARY Deputy Headships continued
DEVON HARTFORSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

DEVON HARTFORSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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KNAYVESMERE SECONDARY
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WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE
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LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
SIBTOP STAFFORD SCHOOL
DEPUTY HEAD

SOLD OLD SOLD
The Times Educational Supplement can help you sell your product. Over 600,000 people read the TES every week and you can reach them cheaply too. Call our Advertisement department.
01-837 1234
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

To teach in the Army, a first class degree may not be enough.

Your academic qualifications may suggest that you'll be a good teacher. But your degree is no proof that you'll make a good officer. And as far as we're concerned, that's what really matters, especially as you'll have to gain the respect of a tough bunch of soldiers. Although you'll seldom be expected to lead them into action, the Army must be sure you have the capabilities to do so.

Obviously, you'll have to be trained, which means six months at Sandhurst, covering a course identical to that of an Infantry Officer. After Sandhurst you'll be commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Educational Corps.

To begin with you will earn between £3,725 and £4,433 (depending on your qualifications and experience). Incidentally, if you decide to leave after three years you will get a tax-free gratuity of £1,395.

Apart from teaching officers (which includes appointments at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and the Royal Military College of Science) and soldiers, you'll also be learning yourself, because the RAEC encourages and gives you every opportunity to continue

your studies, which could include a postgraduate year at a university. Similar opportunities also exist for women applicants.

And the chances are you could spend some time abroad.

You must be medically fit, under 29, and ideally a graduate with a postgraduate qualification in education or other relevant discipline, although applications are accepted from qualified teachers.

Naturally, you'll want to give the matter a great deal of thought. To help you, we can arrange for you to talk with some RAEC Officers and to pay a three-day visit to our headquarters, or spend a day at an Army Education Centre in your vicinity.

Entry normally takes place in January and August and you are advised to apply at least 6 months in advance.

The first step though is to write for an application form giving brief details to: Major A. F. P. Petrie, MA, RAEC, Ministry of Defence (A&E 1a), (Dept N6), Impress State Building, Lillie Road, SW6 1TR.

Army Officer

Colleges of Higher Education

SOUTH GLAMORGAN COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LONDON UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
The Department of Physical Education and Mathematics is seeking applications for a post of Lecturer in Physical Education. The successful candidate will be expected to teach in the Department of Physical Education and to supervise the work of students in the Department of Physical Education. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Physical Education or a related subject and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Physical Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, London University Institute of Education, 27, Bedford Way, London, EC1A 4DF.

SOUTHAMPTON COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Required for September, 1977.
LECTURER IN HISTORY
To assist in the teaching of history in the Department of History. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in History and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in History. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Southampton College of Higher Education, 100, High Street, Southampton, SO9 4NH.

Adult Education

For details of the ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION
Send a 6p stamp to A.A.E.U., 10, St. James' Place, London, W.1. Membership open to all. Part-time study in Adult/Community Education.

of the Education Service at the present time. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, London University Institute of Education, 27, Bedford Way, London, EC1A 4DF.

Community Homes and Associated Institutions

WILTSHIRE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE
The Education Service is seeking applications for a post of Lecturer in Education. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Wiltshire Community Education Service, 100, High Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8JH.

LONDON

UNITED LONDON EDUCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL DISTRICTS
The Education Authority is seeking applications for a post of Lecturer in Education. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, United London Education Authority, 100, High Street, London, EC1A 4DF.

KINGSWOOD SCHOOLS, BRISTOL

KINGSWOOD ASSESSMENT CENTRE: Mr. T. Collins
HEADMASTER
The Education Authority is seeking applications for a post of Headmaster. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Headmaster. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Kingswood Schools, Bristol, BR1 1JH.

SENIOR MATRON

The Education Authority is seeking applications for a post of Senior Matron. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Senior Matron. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Kingswood Schools, Bristol, BR1 1JH.

STRANMILLIS COLLEGE, BELFAST

Principal: JAMES POMFRET, M.A., B.Sc., M.Ed.
Stranmillis College is a College of Education of 1,000 students who are preparing to teach in nursery, primary and secondary schools through the Certificate (3 years), B.Ed. Degree (4 years) and Post-Graduate (1 year) courses. The College is non-denominational; there is no religious test. The College is pleasantly situated in an attractive wooded area in the south of Belfast. The College is a member of the Education Council of Northern Ireland. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Stranmillis College, Belfast, BT5 5DY.

HEAD OF COMMERCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Applicants should be good honours graduates with a teacher training qualification and appropriate teaching experience in secondary or further education. The commitments of the department at present are met by three full time members of staff. Salary: probably Head of Department Scale W.

LECTURER IN CHARGE OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

Desirable qualifications include a good degree in English or Drama, a teacher training qualification, a professional qualification in Drama in Education and Theatre Arts, and school experience in oral communication and creative drama. Salary: probably Head of Department Scale IV.

LECTURER OR SENIOR LECTURER IN HOME ECONOMICS (Textiles)

It is hoped to appoint a good honours graduate who will be able to lead in the parts of the syllabus dealing with Textiles, and to contribute to the work of the department generally. Salary Scales: Head of Department Scale IV—£6,758 p.a. Lecturer/Senior Lecturer—£3,779 to £6,417 p.a. Picking on the scales will be related to previous experience and/or previous salary. Assistance with removal expenses from outside Northern Ireland. Further information about the College and the appointment, and a form of application, may be obtained from The Secretary, Stranmillis College, Belfast BT5 5DY. Applications should be received not later than Friday, February 25th, 1977.

port Lecturer Grade IV, with a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, London University Institute of Education, 27, Bedford Way, London, EC1A 4DF.

COMMUNITY HOMES

YORK YO1 3HA
ST. WILLIAM'S COMMUNITY HOME
The Education Authority is seeking applications for a post of Lecturer in Education. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, St. William's Community Home, York, YO1 3HA.

ASSESSMENT CENTRES

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
The Education Authority is seeking applications for a post of Lecturer in Education. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of Lecturer in Education. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Kensington and Chelsea, London, W8 5AH.

GENERAL SUBJECTS TEACHER

The Education Authority is seeking applications for a post of General Subjects Teacher. The successful candidate will be expected to have a first class honours degree in Education and to have a minimum of five years' experience in the post of General Subjects Teacher. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Kingswood Schools, Bristol, BR1 1JH.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

HOUSE SUPERVISOR
(Male or Female)
Newfield House
Grade 1 £1,884 (age 18)—£2,520
Grade 2 £2,277-£2,891
Grade 3 £2,384-£2,853
Depending on experience and qualifications plus £312 p.a. supplement plus £150 p.a. for appropriate qualifications, less appropriate emoluments. Newfield House is a Community School Home with education on the premises. It is situated near the City Centre and cares for 24 girls aged 10-16 years. The Home has been recently modernised and now offers the facilities for the girls to live in three separate groups with their own kitchenette. The House Supervisor (Residential Social Worker) will be involved in the caring of the girls outside of school hours and should have some understanding of adolescent problems. The work is demanding, often frustrating but extremely interesting and rewarding. Other care staff will be involved with the group. The position offered is non-residential, but the person appointed will be required to sleep in at least two evenings a week for which an allowance will be paid. All applicants will be considered but applicants with a professional social work qualification or allied professional qualifications are invited to apply for the position. Application forms and further particulars from: Director of Social Services, Little Park Street, Coventry CV1 5RB. Returnable by 21st February, 1977.

LONDON BOROUGHS OF NEWHAM

ARDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Near Grays, Essex
General Subjects Teacher
This Community Home School provides one, treatment and education for boys aged between 13 and 17 years. Teaching duties will involve some English and some Remedial Subjects work. Applicants must be qualified teachers with ideally at least three years' general teaching experience. Additional qualifications or residential experience would be an advantage. The person appointed will be expected to participate in the extensive day scheme of approximately 16 hours per week. A Unmarried accommodation for single or married applicants is available within the extensive school grounds at a standard rental. Salary: Burnham Scale 1 plus £684 p.a. Approved School Allowance plus £870 p.a. Exfranchise Duty Allowance plus £150 p.a. London Fringe Allowance. Further information available from the Principal, Mr. M. O. Meyers (tel. Grays Thurrock 4872). Application forms are available from the Director of Social Services, London Borough of Newham, 99 The Grove, Stratford, London, E15 1HR, and should be returned as soon as possible.

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KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
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FINLAND... INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Requires qualified TEACHERS... in Helsinki...

Member schools... in various countries...

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Requires qualified TEACHERS... in Geneva...

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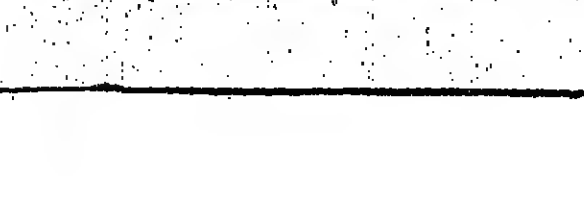
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Beware, this is art

Michael Clarke on an exhibition of Soviet art

Unofficial Art from the Soviet Union. Institute of Contemporary Arts until February 27.

"The law permits me to write: It only asks that I write in a style other than my own! I am allowed to show the face of my mind, but, first, I must give it a prescribed expression! Where is the room of honour who would not turn crimson at this imposition, who would not prefer to hide his head under his toga? At least the toga hints that it may conceal the head of a Juniper undergrowth"; thus wrote Karl Marx on the Prussian censors in 1842. The Soviet State does not agree. Socialist Realism, dogmatically followed since 1934, is the only official art. No other exists officially. The events of 1974 made it impossible not to recognize, however, that an unofficial art, much more widespread than even the most optimistic supporter had dared to hope, not only did exist but was on show in Moscow.

Soviet Artists have no legal right to work in his profession, but to be able to must undertake to adhere strictly to Socialist Realism. Any artist choosing to deviate even slightly from this prescribed expression must do so strictly in private and without support. Private sales of work are illegal. Under Stalin, Russian artists were steadily denied access to the country's holdings of international modern art and cut off from any current activities in the west. Only under Khrushchev was a peep permitted through the iron curtain. Between 1954 and 1963 there were a series of exhibitions in Moscow and Leningrad of west and east European art but perhaps the most significant event for the artist on show at the ICA was the Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students which permitted contacts, both national and international, and gained supporters outside the Soviet Union. Khrushchev subsequently denounced this new manifestation but too late—an unofficial art had been created. Many people will react dismissively to the ICA show, admitting the artists' courage while they reject the works as little better than Bayreuthian Ruse on Sundays. When they will not do is recognize the distinction between the Soviet context from our own: we are surrounded by individualist, even esoteric art, they must resist being engulfed in total conformity; we have had almost complete access to the modern movement, they have been almost excluded from it. How can we judge appropriately? Marx cited his article by quoting Voltaire: "Tous les genres sont bons excepté le genre ennuyeux." If there are no Janitors in the found at the ICA there is little that is boring. Let us heed one of the newspaper headlines in Oscar Rabin's "Still-Life with Fish and Právda", "Beware, this is Art."



Still life with fish and Právda, 1968. A painting in oil on canvas by Oscar Rabin, from Alexander Glezer's Russian Museum in Exile, Montgeron, near Paris.

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Ballet On their toes Rosemary Hartill

Images of the Dance. By Richard Anstey. Vision Press £3.95. 85478 293 1, Birch of a Ballet. By Richard Anstey. Vision Press £4.20. 85478 044. A History of Ballet and Dance, by Alexander Hland. Barrie and Jenkins £7.95. 214 2028 6.

Now that experimental modern dance is becoming ever more popular, calling into question many of the old aesthetics of the classical ballet, dance criticism sometimes seems like walking in a dark wood where few paths are clearly marked and where light filters through only in certain glades. We have all been to ballets which we left excited by the spectacle or the technique displayed, only to find that a few days later we have no lasting memory of the dance in our hearts. Why is this? Why do some dances move us so, when others dance the same steps and leave no impression? What should we look for when we go to the ballet?

Images of the Dance is the first book in English to try to come to terms with these and related questions, and such a book is much needed. That the book is also written with passionate logic, cross-references of true illumination, and in prose of, at times, piercing beauty makes it a landmark in dance criticism.

The author has distilled a lifetime's experience of the dance into a series of marvellous essays which, together with those in an earlier book *The Ballarina*, create a theory of aesthetics for the dance. With imagination and sensitivity, he explores subjects like the elements of dance, the play and allegory in ballet, the differences between the classical and romantic styles, the elusive qualities of great dancers, and the relationship between dance and its sister arts, particularly music, poetry and design.

Richard Anstey writes about it in the book, but he suffers under two counts. First, there was an inherent lack of exciting visual material, of the kind which made, say, *Restless Earth* a treat to watch even for the uninitiated. Pictures of talking heads, slyder tracks described as the traces of exotic particles, computers and large buildings do not make two hours of good TV. The attempt to compensate for this by balancing the presenter, Nigel Calder, on a bridge across a ludicrous set apparently left over from *Dr Who*, brought some light relief which helped to alleviate the boredom but hardly the required visual excitement. This is where the second deficiency was so apparent—the lack of a professional presenter. Calder himself in the role of presenter seemed uncomfortable and made us uncomfortable.

For the layman, the show said no more than "there are some very clever things with very clever machines". In no way was it successful as a presentation at peak viewing time on even the minority channel; it would, perhaps, have made ideal material for two Open University broadcasts for over-16s in the new region, and while organizations such as the Open University will doubtless seize on it with delight, they might ponder how many equally good programmes they could have made for themselves with the equivalent budget.

The book on its own will be most useful to undergraduates in the physical sciences and those so far past the undergraduate stage that, like myself, they have lost touch with recent developments. Again, the lack of exciting visual material shows, but here it does not matter, and the presence of a wealth of diagrams is genuinely relevant and useful. The discussion of gluons and colour—two areas as much a mystery to me as any casual reader in filling in those gaps in my knowledge.

It was a pity that the TV show probably put a lot of people off buying the book. But Calder has not lost touch with the written word and this is as good an introduction in a new subject as, say, *The Woother Machine*, was in its day.

English language: colonial experience

Roy Blatchford on Commonwealth Writers

The English Novel Abroad. BBC Radio 3, Thursdays 18.30

"Can the English language express a vision and experience of the life of a country with a different history, a different structure, a different culture from that of Britain?" Professor William Walsh raises the question in the first of six programmes which look at the work of Indian, West African, East African and West Indian novelists who write principally in English.

Why have Commonwealth writers chosen to employ not their native tongue but that of their colonial overlord? Have they tried to correct the popular image of their countries and so make alien worlds and sensibilities accessible to any reader of English? And, most perplexing, why have they consciously chosen a European form, the novel?

These questions are variously explored with five writers. R. K. Narayan, a senior Indian writer of 12 novels in English, disarmingly admits in the opening programme that he never thought of any other language. As he explains, it is a neutral medium in which the words take on the colour of the experience which is described. In the extract read from the *Guide*, we are made aware of his mischievous humour and the unmythical transcendence which makes him the most European of Third World writers.

According to R. K. Narayan there is a poem for social protest in the novel. It emphasizes two of his deepest convictions: the equality and isolation of the individual and the complete indifference of the crowd.

A fellow Indian, Kamala Markandeya, emphasizes the impact of the colonial administrators on her English schooling. Interviewer John Spencer perceptively suggests that English has proved to be a window on India through which we can view the country with Indian sensibilities.

Writers from Kipling onwards have focused on that curious limbo-land in which Englishmen and British Raj remote from a baffling background of language and culture. The reading from Ms Markandeya's first novel *Nectar in a Sieve* dispels notions of India as "all sweet meadows and rajahs and racial misunderstanding", and re-establishes a faith in Gandhi's dictum that rural India is the true India.

Survival in Arctic regions

Jackie Hardie

Caribou of Northern Canada. Colour. 19 minutes. 16mm. Available from Pergus Davidson Associates Ltd, 22 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

A detailed study is made of their movement, population and growth cycles. It has been made necessary by hunting. Although the reasons why the animals were hunted by Athabaskan Indians and Eskimos must have varied they are not explained, nor is the effect of civilized man on caribou territory.

The film follows a herd for one year from the calving on the Arctic tundra in June to rutting and overwintering in coniferous forests and the eventual return to the breeding grounds. One sequence shows the effect of insect pests such as the warble-fly. This insect lays its egg in the caribou's hair, the larvae burrow into the skin. Aspects of social behaviour such as ritual combat are also shown. The role of caribou in the web of life of Northern Canada is briefly mentioned, with some shots of the caribou being hunted by wolves. The documentary is non-technical so the film could be used as an introduction to the study of mammalian migration and social behaviour up to ordinary level standard.

Music

Festive festival

Geoffrey Russell-Smith

In spite of the current popularity of phrases like "small is beautiful" there is often a tendency to think of success in terms of bigness—the expanding economy, big business, the theatrical spectacular—and, to some extent, this kind of thinking has invaded the world of the music festivals, especially the competitive festival. Anyone closely connected with such events will know well the top half dozen large, successful ones which attract big entries, and to which competitors from all over the country travel each year.

There are three main types of music festival—discounting professional events such as Edinburgh or Aldeburgh. There is the competitive festival (be it local, national or international) where the competitors perform in front of an adjudicator or adjudication panel and receive not only erudite criticism but also marks out of a hundred and, often, trophies or cash prizes for the winners. While this promotes high standards among the talented amateurs, it does little to raise the level of classroom music-making in the ordinary school because it is mainly the more expert chitling who enters—usually one receiving private music lessons.

Non-competitive schools music festivals are usually organized by a local music advisor, sometimes by the Schools Music Association or some other body, and they consist of public concerts in which representative groups from a number of schools present their own speciality items. The programme ends with a massed performance of a work which will have studied specially for the occasion. The main difficulty here is that, to the absence of any adjudication, the standards can vary enormously. There can be less rigorous self-criticism, under-rehearsal, and a lack of concentration on the basics of execution and interpretation.

Against such a background, *The National Festival of Music for Youth* constantly faces pressures to become bigger and more prestigious, pressures which threaten its unique character. But it has tried to steer a careful course between the rigorous of conception and the undemanding atmosphere of non-competition. The fact that there are no set works and that no works are awarded by the adjudicator, either at regional or national level, allows

him a far freer hand in advising, evaluating and awarding, and in encouraging the players and their teachers. Again, because the pressure on the players is so much less, everyone, including the adjudicators, can enjoy the music being played; the festival has often a really festive atmosphere. More important perhaps is the inclusion of exciting experimental music-making, often by children of no particularly exceptional talent, the participation by classes of very young children whose teachers wisely avoid music competitions perse and, strangely enough, entries by some of the most highly trained and talented groups of young musicians in the country.

The commitment to the playing of "own choice" items is an essential ingredient, allowing groups to present completely original work, and with enormous success. One thinks of last year's Tabor Recorder Consort with their *Plute Dauses* by Hans Ulrich Staeps. Moreover it also allows for items specially composed for such groups as The Guild Music Centre Percussion Group with their Suite by Ron Forbes, written to accommodate this unusual instrumentation involved.

So what are the dangers for the future? The increasing success of the existing formula may well act as an inducement to "improve" things radically. For example, there is an obvious temptation to "go international", or to prefer valuable prizes for groups of outstanding ability. There is the attraction of recording and broadcasts or even concert tours.

My personal view—and it is a personal one, not necessarily shared by everybody connected with the festival—is that now the National Festival of Music for Youth is a nationally recognized success we must shut all such moves. It would be all too easy to turn a carefully nurtured showcase for the best in our educational music into a Junior Opportunity Knock. To make it a happy hunting ground for inter-school talent spotters, or to allow the best-selling groups to force competition to creep in and thus to destroy its particular character and function. The National Festival of Music for Youth is sponsored by The Association of Music Instrument Industries and The Times Educational Supplement.

Television

Of quarks and gluons

John Gribbin

The Key to the Universe. By Nigel Calder. BBC Publications £5.95. Television programme BBC 2 Thursday, January 27.

We are living in an era when high energy physicists and astrophysicists, burrowing ever deeper in their search for the fundamental particles and the forces which link them, believe that they may be within sight of a comprehensive new "world picture", the key to our ultimate understanding of the universe. Much of this research is expensive, requiring giant particle accelerators for the accessors of the "atom smashing" experiments of not so long ago, now seen as pretty small beer in retrospect, and much of the language of the researchers is, at first sight, incomprehensible. They inhabit a world where the key particles go by such names as "quarks", "gluons", "glipons", and where the most intriguing properties of those particles relate to their "charm" and "strangeness".

To the latest of his roughly annual TV Science Specials, and the inevitable associated book, Nigel Calder has set out to remove some of the mystery and to interpret those arcane utterances for the layman. We were warned in advance, both by Radio Times and the BBC 2 announcer, to expect something rather more difficult than the usual fare from the box, and told that we should all really watch the programme again on the Sunday after its first showing, to catch the bits we missed first time around.

What we were not advised was to read the book before watching the programme, yet in my experience this was the only way most people could have got anything out of it. Using a two-hour special on TV as a trailer for the book hardly makes sense in terms of the BBC's assumed interests, while publishing the book in advance of the show at least part of the potential audience might have been sufficiently informed in advance to stay tuned.

Briefings

Radio and tv

FE and general interest

Headmaster (Monday 21.00 BBC 2) Frank Windsor stars in a six-part series about the day-to-day problems of a comprehensive school. *The Welfare Network* (Tuesday 19.00 Radio 3)

John Hamson, director for social services in Devon, introduces the first of six programmes on the coordination of health, education and social services. *The English Novel Abroad* (Thursday 18.30 Radio 3)

Six studies of overseas writers whose native language is not English, but who chose to write in English. R. K. Narayan, the South Indian author, talks about and reads from his novel *The Guide*. *What Right Have You Got?* (Thursday 19.00 Radio 3)

Planning and the Local Authority. Bob Salkeed discusses the differences between house purchases and the planning process. *Music, Maestro, Please* (Friday 19.00 Radio 3)

John Carver discusses style, taste and the interweaver's responsibility in "I beg to differ".

For schools

General Studies (Monday 11.45, Friday 14.35 BBC 1)

Two programmes originally broadcast in the *Horizon* series explore the differences and similarities between humans and chimpanzees. Sixteen to 19 year olds watch the progress of a chimpanzee in the human world. *Seeing and Doing* (Tuesday 9.30, Thursday 11.22 ITV)

Six year olds are encouraged to interpret sounds and, by extension, the history of instruments are shown, with ideas on how to construct them. *The World of Work* (Tuesday 9.35 VHF 4)

"You just don't understand" is the cry of two young people with problems at work. Fourteen to 16 year olds hear how Sue and Neil learn to people other than their parents for help. *The Messenger* (Tuesday 9.47, Thursday 9.42 ITV)

"Cameraman in Action" features George Jesse Turner, who has worked on over 140 World in Action productions. He chooses three key programmes to illustrate his feelings towards his job. *Figure It Out* (Tuesday 11.05, Friday 9.30 ITV)

The over-sevens begin work on multiplication tables, flow diagrams, making a cube and folding a circle. They make a game based on sequences and watch film of a blacksmith working on wrought iron. *Physical Science* (Tuesday 11.40 BBC 1)

Ten programmes designed for 13 to 16-year-old examination-oriented pupils. "Chemical Technology" deals with the general functions of the chemical industry and looks specifically at large ammonia manufacturing plant. *History 1917-3* (Wednesday 9.38 BBC 1)

Fourteen to 16-year-olds study Russia under Khrushchev and the "Thaw". Focus on his rise to power, changes in home and foreign policy and reasons for his downfall. *Discovery* (Wednesday 11.20 VHF 4)

A unit on "Print and Paper" for nine to 11-year-olds. *Nature* (Wednesday 14.45 VHF 4)

Eight to 10-year-olds continue their study of carnivores and herbivores with a visit to Kenya. "About Elephants" traces the history of the animal and the conservation dilemma it provides in Africa. Can the elephant be allowed to roam on valuable farmland? Will the species be allowed to die out?

Symbolic literacy

Peter Green

Reading the Signs. BBC 1 ABC1 late night Sundays, repeated BBC 2 Tuesdays, 15.00.

We are surrounded by signs, objects and human communicating ideas and information. It is a sign that exists in an identifying way that it acquires its own meaning. The number of signs in this technological world is rapidly increasing. Reading and understanding them is the basis of visual literacy.

The study of visual language has never been established as a serious subject in education and scholarship. If we are going to make sense of our world of visual language we must approach the teaching of visual literacy as a parallel priority to the teaching of reading and writing. This series of five 25-minute programmes sets out to investigate some of the current uses and the problems that arise when signs and symbols are created. The programmes concentrate on the design of signs and symbols and try to encourage viewers to look at visual information more critically.

Five well-groomed graphic design students are asked to design symbols for an imaginary international conference area, for the toilet, restaurant, hairdressing and development and visual thinking.

In each programme the students, sitting at their drawing boards, consider and discuss aspects of their work. Unfortunately we never leave the "classroom" to explore the wider world of real visual material. Probably the ideas in that through watching the students

working the viewing public will come to understand how the grammar of visual signs functions. The observed lesson does not work convincingly. The sessions warm up as the series progresses, but the inter-student relationship is so obviously rigged that it negates some of the valuable content. The presentation is stilted and stilted, everyone is conspicuously on his best behaviour and the lesson is an experience for the viewer, and may come to life.

There is an underlying fine art influence with symbols seen at times as small-scale abstract paintings. Reference is made to fine art practice, possibly at the expense of the broader area of everyday communication and the language of signs is not exclusive to graphic design and artists. The wider variety of designed forms and how they communicate ideas and information is only referred to briefly.

Concentrating largely on two-dimensional symbols may be a useful beginning but it poses the question of who the series is intended for. The emphasis suggests that it is aimed at students of design or the visual arts, but a general audience "interested in the background for design" is also kept in mind. A combined audience of this nature is obviously not an easy target.

The public consumes a great deal of visual material and a different approach might have brought this into the debate. Combining an art student exercise with an attempt to promote visual literacy to a general audience is ambitious and perhaps confusing.

Film

At home with country poets

Frances Hill

The Poetry of Landscape—William Wordsworth. 16mm colour. 15 mins.

Poetry of Landscape—Thomas Hardy. 16mm colour. 15 mins. Produced by Kevin Morsland Films for the British Tourist Authority. Available through Transport and Travel Film Library, British Transport Films.

In its near bankrupt state Britain must look again at its surviving national assets and reassess their potential as foreign currency earners. What about all that pretty scenery? And all those poets and novelists (Most foreigners with some secondary education have heard of most of them) Are they doing their bit to bring in the deutschmarks and dollars?

The British Tourist Authority clearly does not think so, and has produced the first two of a series of films to try to rectify the situation. The formula appears to be to do for Wordsworth and Hardy by design what has been done for Shakespeare more or less by chance. Benefiting from the lessons provided by 57 trailers on Avon's phenomenal success as a money spinner, the films show Dove Cottage and Hardy's childhood home in pretty settings in a glamorized Lake District and Dorset respectively.

Of course the films can hardly blame Wordsworth's lakes and meadows and Dorset's hills and heathlands more beautiful than they are already, except by carefully leaving out all modern accretions such as cars, new buildings and telephons poles, but they can and do give the impression that nothing much has changed in these areas in the past 100 years.

The film on Wordsworth is the less dishonest of the two: the one on Hardy would just as usefully depict Angkor and bring the entire Dorset population consists of thatchers, blacksmiths, ferric and agricultural labourers. To both films, plenty of apparently unspoiled countryside with lushes of grass, typical English features—stone and they inhabited.

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